

THE ASYLUM

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Spring, 1991

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The Asylum

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Books about U.S. silver and gold coins prior to 1837 and pioneer and territorial gold

by Jeff Rock

This is the third part of Jeff's bibliography.

Hurlbut, Clarence J. *Relative rarity of United States silver dollars*. Bethesda, 1961. 16 pp.

A monograph devoted to the rarity of silver dollars from 1794-1935. Although nothing new can be learned from this booklet the author does take an interesting approach. Not recommended for anyone other than the die-hard bibliomaniac who must have every book published. Available for around \$5.

Judd, J. Hewitt, Walter H. Breen, and Abe Kosoff. *United States pattern, experimental and trial pieces*. Racine, 1959. 253 pp., ill.

Later editions of this book were published in 1962, 1965, 1970, 1974, 1977, and 1983. The latest edition is indispensable, the standard reference. It completely revises the Adam-Woodin book described at the beginning of this bibliography. Archival research by Walter Breen and valuations by Abe Kosoff balance the original text written by Judd. Another of the volumes which belong in every library whether a collector owns patterns or not. Copies of the first edition are scarce and generally bring \$50. Subsequent editions bring \$10-\$15, with the latest selling for around \$20.

Kagin, Donald H. *Private gold coinage of the United States*. New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1981. 406 pp., ill.

Now the standard reference in the field, this work started off as a doctoral dissertation, and with the help of hobby giants Walter Breen and Henry Clifford became a full-fledged reference work. The historical detail is the most exhaustive published, with much of the information never having been made public before. The appendix which interests most collectors is the complete listing of issues, including patterns and die trials. Halftones of most issues are provided, as well as estimates of rarity. The book was published at \$30 but copies have been available for about half that. A limited number of copies in full leather, with a leather slipcase, were produced and have sold for from \$150 to \$200.

Kaplan, Sol. *History of Augustus Humbert and the fifty dollar slug*. Cincinnati, n.d. (ca 1955-60). 5 pp.

A brief look at the man and the coin. The text contains a few errors and notable omissions. Listed not for its reference value but as an interesting piece that will fit well into any collector's library. Scarce. Copies sell for around \$20.

[Kenny, Richard D. Early American medalists and die-sinkers prior to the Civil War. 24 pp., halftones and line cuts.

Originally published as Vol. 21, No. 1 of *The coin collector's journal* in 1954. Presents information on engravers and die sinkers responsible for territorial and private gold coins as well as mint engravers. Generally available for about \$10. A typically low quality Durst reprint was issued in 1982 and is available for around \$5.]

Kimmell, Jerry. *Kimmell's analysis of pioneer gold*. The author, 1974. 44 pp.

A monograph devoted to the auction appearance of private gold coins. The author examined over a hundred important auctions, from the 1878 Clemens sale through sales of 1973 and has listed all auction appearances found. An invaluable tool for the researcher. Hard to find. Copies have sold for around \$35.

Kosoff, Abe. *United States dimes from 1796: a new standard classification with estimate and recent sales prices*. New York, 1945. 25 pp., 4 plates.

This monograph, originally published as the dime section of Numismatic Gallery's auction catalog of the F.C.C. Boyd collection, was intended to become the standard reference in the field. It contains many errors and omissions but did serve collectors for over thirty years. Lot numbers from the original sale are given, as well as estimated and actual sale prices, the latter mostly lower than the former. Available for around \$15. The 1964 second edition, issued in 1964 from Kosoff's new offices in Encino, added to the first edition a column of current values which shows the amazing increase in prices in less than two decades. The revised edition is available for around \$10.

_____. *Pioneer gold coinage of the west*. Sol Kaplan, 1964. 24 pp., ill.

A brochure looking at the pioneer, territorial and pattern pieces from the Kenyon V. Painter collection, with extensive descriptions of some issues. Not a complete overview, as types and varieties Painter lacked were not even mentioned in the text. The softcover issue sells for \$20-\$25, while the deluxe hardcover issue, usually signed by Kaplan, commands a price of over \$50.

_____. *An illustrated history of United States coins depicting the proposed designs as well as the accepted types*. Encino, 1962. 76 pp., ill.

Halftones and descriptions of coins from the collection of Dr J. Hewitt Judd. Fascinating reading, even if it does sound a bit like an auction catalog, complete with lot numbers and pedigrees. The softcovered issue is available for around \$10; the hardcover usually brings double that amount.

_____. *Abe Kosoff remembers*. New York, 1981. 392 pp., ill. (poor halftones.)

A compilation of the many columns with the same name from the pages of *Coin world*. A fun-filled, nostalgic trip back in time, with glimpses of collectors and collections of the past. Although Kosoff's credentials as an informed numismatist have been questioned, he was present at some of the most fascinating times our hobby has seen, and he writes about those times admirably, even if fiction is occasionally more abundant than fact. The softcover issue sells for \$20, while the hardcover usually brings \$25 and the deluxe hardcover \$40.

Lee, Ed. *California gold, quarters, halves, dollars: a descriptive list of privately issued, interesting and historical coins of small denominations*. Glendale, 1932. 93 pp., 1 plate.

The first book devoted solely to California fractional gold, long used as the standard refer. inch. The plate shows only a few coins, and the descriptions often make it difficult to attribute pieces. Original copies are quite scarce and when found usually command upwards of \$100.

Lee, Kenneth W. *California gold dollars, half dollars, quarter dollars*. Glendale, 1970. 138 pp.

The author, who was Ed Lee's son, continued his father's interest in California fractional gold and added many new specimens to their collection. This book, which describes both the previously known and newly discovered specimens with a new cataloging system, quickly became the reference which was standard until publication of the Breen-Gillio work detailed above. This first edition, often found with a 1970 guide to valuations laid in, sells for around \$15 to \$20. The revised, second edition, published by George Frederick Kolbe Publications, Santa Anna, is 120 pages long and added photographs of all known varieties. The photography was done by noted numismatist Jack Collins and is of his usual high quality. Many collectors still use the Lee work as their primary reference, and auction houses occasionally offer pieces attributed only to Lee. Copies of the second edition sell for around \$25-\$35. Fifteen copies were printed on heavy paper and contain two Cibachrome™ plates. This deluxe issue has commanded a price of around \$250.

Matthews, George D. *The coinage of the world, ancient and modern*. New York, 1876. 305 pp., line cuts.

Although devoted mainly to foreign coins, this book contains some items on colonial and early U.S. coins. Background reading only, but easily one of the most affordable pieces of numismatic literature over a hundred years old, as copies generally sell for around \$25.

McCloskey, John. *America's silver coinage, 1794-1891*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1986. 36 pp.

Published as "Handbook #6" by the ANS, this book was issued as a supplement to the third Coinage of the Americas conference, which dealt with silver coinage. A well written and informative overview, sure to be of interest to every collector. Copies are still available from the ANS for \$6. A special boxed edition which includes thirty six color slides is available for \$25.

McClure, Dudley L. *Tales of the golden beavers*. Iola: Krause Publications, 1977. 64 pp., ill.

A look at Oregon territory coinage. Well researched and illustrated, this work goes into far greater detail than the Adams, Breen, or Kagin books described above. Copies may still be available from the publisher at the issue price of about \$15

McGarry, Sheridan L. *Mormon money*. 1962. 48 pp., ill. (poor halftones)

A look at the various monies issued by the Church of the Latterday Saints. Although the author looks primarily at the paper money, the gold coins and the enigmatic 1846 brass tokens are also described. The wealth of background information makes the work quite valuable to the researcher. Luckily, it is quite inexpensive, since copies are readily available for under \$5.

McIlvaine, Arthur D. *The silver dollars of the United States of America*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1941. 35 pp., 6 plates.

Number 95 of the society's "Numismatic notes and monographs". A general overview of the silver dollars from 1794 to 1935. As in all ANS publications, the plates are of exceptionally high quality. Available for around \$25.

Mickley, Joseph J. *Dates of United States coins and their degree of rarity*. Philadelphia, 1858. 4 pp.

The only published work of the man who is generally considered America's first numismatist. It lists the coins of each year, along with notations for common, rare, and very rare. The final pages list thirteen years of pattern coinage. An interesting and historically very important item. Quite rare. Copies have sold for around \$200.

Mumey, Nolie. *Clark, Gruber and Company (1860-1865): a pioneer Denver mint: history of their operation and coinage*. Denver, 1950. 93 pp., ill.

A very thorough look at the coinage of the first Denver mint and bank, with a great amount of information not found in any other source, including the more recent Kagin and Breen works described above. Quite scarce. Eight hundred copies numbered and signed by the author were printed. These have routinely fetched \$100 to \$125 and are in constant demand.

Newlin, Harold P. *A classification of the early half dimes of the United States with a few remarks on their types, varieties, rarity, etc., etc.* Philadelphia, 1883. 24 pp., two photographic plates.

Long the standard reference for the series and still one of the most sought-after volumes in numismatic literature. Of the one hundred copies originally printed only forty hardcoverd copies contained the photographs. The quite rare plated edition has reached \$2000, while the issue without plates has brought a very respectable \$1000. Interestingly enough, the plates were originally produced for the sale of the Newlin collection by Haseltine, April 10, 1883, although none was issued with the catalog. Several reprints were produced, including one in 12 pages by Hewitt Brothers in 1933, available for under \$5. A few were issued with photographic plates; one of these has brought over \$150 at auction. A scarce variant lacks the words "Reprint edition 1933" on the cover. I have seen only a few copies of this; they will undoubtedly continue to be unappreciated. In about 1975 the B&B Coin Co. of Fairmont issued a 23 page exact reprint which includes copies of the original covers. It is available for around \$15. A reprint with plates is included in the 1975 *The United States half dimes*, issued by Quarterman Publications, which is listed here under the name of the senior author, Daniel Valentine.

Newman, Eric P., and Kenneth E. Bressett. *The fantastic 1804 dollar*. Racine, 1962. 144 pp., ill.

One of the greatest numismatic books ever written. The authors diligently track down the mystery surrounding America's most famous coin. The conclusion that "The King of American Coins" is an imposture" has certainly not damaged the value of the coin! Words alone cannot do justice to this book. Buy a copy and read it thoroughly. I guarantee that you'll be impressed! Available for around \$15-\$20 and well worth it. Sixteen review copies were printed early in 1962, before the discovery of the King of Siam proof set. When the historic set became known production of the book was halted and the authors quickly revised their text to include the new information. These copies are highly desirable and have brought over \$200 in private sales.

Overton, Al C. *Early half dollar varieties: a supplement*. The Author, 1964. 19 pp., ill.

Published as a supplement to the Beistle volume, which had been printed some 35 years earlier, this booklet details many of the new die varieties discovered in the intervening years and illustrates the two 1817/14 varieties. Overton used this supplement as the starting point for his work on bust halves, the next listing. Quite scarce, with copies missing from some of the largest numismatic libraries as well as from the libraries of specialists in the series. No auction records but doubtlessly worth \$25 or more.

_____. *Early half dollar varieties 1794-1836*. Colorado Springs, 1967. 349 pp., ill.

The standard reference in the field. The first edition is full of errors and quite difficult to use for attributions. Literature dealer Jack Collins, in his first auction catalog, relates that much of the information contained in this work was obtained from John Cobb, who had close to 3000 bust halves and had made extensive notes concerning varieties. Learning that Overton was working on a similar publication, he offered to collaborate and sent a copy of his manuscript to Overton. When the book was published there was no mention of Cobb. In disgust, he sold his collection to a southern-California dealer who in turn sold the finest examples to Al Overton! The first edition sells for around \$25. The 274 page 1970 edition has much better illustrations and is quite a bit easier to use. There have been several printings of this second edition, and it should still be available for around \$30. A supplement issued by the Bust Half Nut Club in 1981, revised in 1983, details several discoveries made since publication of the Overton book. This is obtainable for around \$7.

Piper, Richard. *The elusive 1836 reeded edge half dollars*. Wheaton, 1976. 61 pp., ill.

An interesting and extremely informative monograph devoted to the 1836 reeded edge half dollar, its design, its manufacture, and some scholarly opinions on whether it is a pattern or a regular issue United States coin. Few monographs have been written on a single coin, though there are many coins worthy of such close scrutiny. The present volume should be in the library of every collector with an interest in early silver coinage. Scarce, as are most privately printed books. I searched over two years to find a copy. Don't expect to find one for under \$15.

Prime, W.C. *Coins, medals, and seals, ancient and modern, illustrated and described, with a sketch of the history of coins and coinage, instructions for young collectors, tables of comparative rarity, price lists of English and American coins, medals, and tokens, &c., &c.* New York, 1861. 294 pp., line cuts.

A lively piece of background reading, portions of which were reprinted in *The colonial newsletter* more than a century after its initial publication! Luckily still available for around \$40.

Raymond, Rossiter W. *Mineral resources of the states and territories west of the Rocky Mountains.* Washington, 1869. 256 pp., line cuts.

A government-sponsored look at the mining and assaying activities in California, Nevada, Montana, and Idaho. Of special interest to the numismatist are the portions dealing with assays of bullion by such firms as Blake & Co. Quite scarce. I have recorded only a recent private sale at \$125.

_____. *Statistics of mines and mining in the states and territories west of the Rocky Mountains.* Washington, 1870. 805 pp., line cuts, 4 folding plates.

At least four editions were issued, one a year, 1870-1873. All are quite scarce, and I can find only one auction record, over twenty years old. Super collector John J. Ford ably cataloged two editions sold in New Netherland's 59th sale: "Both volumes contain exhaustive data on mines, mining and mining companies in the Western states and territories, plus much technical information on the mechanical appliances of mining and the metallurgical processes. However, their real value lies not in the wealth of statistical and technical material they contain, but in the numerous geographic, historical and human interest facts mentioned." If copies appear at auction they should easily sell for from \$100 to \$150.

Raymond, Wayte. *The Stickney 1804 dollar.* New York, 1931. 14 pp., ill.

A remarkable publication devoted to the pedigree of the Stickney 1804 dollar, which Raymond had purchased in 1923 as part of the Col. Ellsworth collection. The coin later went to William Atwater in a private sale. This pamphlet prints a lengthy letter from Matthew Stickney, the original owner of the coin, to Edward Cogan, the first full-time coin dealer in the United States. Also included are letters from T.L. Comparette, then curator of the mint collection; Col. Ellsworth; and Wayte Raymond. Almost certainly produced at Atwater's insistence, this monograph is quite rare. The only record I have is a private sale at \$35.

_____. *Private gold coins struck in the United States 1830-1861: a complete illustrated list of the various coins issued by private assayers in Georgia, Carolina, Colorado, Utah, Oregon and California.* New York, 1931. 32 pp., ill.

A brief look at the various pioneer and territorial issues, none of which are covered in any great detail. The halftones are of low quality. Still in great demand by collectors. Soft covered it sells for around \$15; the very scarce issue covered in brown morocco brings over \$100.

_____. *Standard catalogue of United States coins and currency from 1652 to the present day*. New York, 1934. ill.

This was the collector's bible of its day, occupying much the same position as today's popular Redbook. Eighteen editions were published between 1934 and 1957. The various titles included *The standard catalogue of United States coins and tokens from 1652 to the present day* and *The standard catalogue of United States coins from 1652 to the present day*. Early editions are scarce and bring from \$35 to \$50; later editions generally bring around \$20. The final edition, edited by John J. Ford, Jr. and completely rewritten by Walter Breen, is the most useful and usually brings \$30. Deluxe copies, usually interleaved with cross-section paper, were issued in limited numbers some years and are priced from \$75 to \$150.

Reiver, Jules. *Variety identification manual for United States half dimes 1794-1837*. Wilmington, 1984. 38 pp., ill.

One of Reiver's popular and extremely helpful quick finders, which through the use of four letters and numbers allow a collector to quickly identify what variety he has. Current rarity ratings are given. A worthwhile booklet, available for around \$10.

_____. *Variety identification manual for United States quarter dollars 1794-1838*. Wilmington, 1987. 48 pp., ill.

Another quick finder, this one devoted to the early quarter dollars of the United States. Of great importance to the collector of early silver, as the revised rarity ratings of these pieces have not been published elsewhere. Still available for around \$10.

_____. *Variety identification manual for United States reeded edge half dollars 1836-1839*. Wilmington, 1988. 60 pp., ill.

This quick finder is devoted to what most collectors feel are the four toughest years in the half dollar series to attribute correctly. The introduction of steam power caused many changes at the mint, among them the ability to hub entire dies and to strike coins with reeded edges. A must book for the collector of early U.S. coinage, still available for around \$10.

Riddell, J.L. *A monograph of the silver dollar, good and bad, illustrated with facsimile figures of four hundred and twenty five varieties of dollars, and eighty seven varieties of half dollars, including the genuine, the low standard, and the counterfeit, giving their weight, quality, and exact value, and enabling the inexperience to detect those which are spurious*. New Orleans, 1845. 364 pp., ill.

Just the title of the book tells you everything you need to know about its contents. In effect the book is a counterfeit detector for coins. Riddell was in an exceptional position to write this book, being not only a professor of chemistry but also the melter and refiner at the New Orleans branch mint. The only auction record I can find for this quite rare book is \$900. The 1969 reprint from the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico is available for around \$35,

(to be continued)

The brown book

by Frank Calvin

(conclusion)

Twelfth edition c1978. A new title and a new format mark this edition. The range of the catalog, 1850-1964, was added to the title; the book now became soft-cover, with so-called perfect binding replacing the old sewn sections. The page size was increased to 5.5 x 8.2 inches.

Thirteenth edition c1983. Apparently Western Publishing gave up on the brown book; this, the last edition, was published under license by The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc., and the title page states "Revised and Edited by Arthur L. Friedberg and Ira S. Friedberg". The card covers are tan rather than brown. An ill-considered change to the format was the adoption of a sans-serif typeface, reducing the readability of the text portions.

There was an associate editor, four men achieved the rank of consulting editor, thirty six men and two women comprised the editorial board, and thirty eight people were credited with contributing to this and previous editions. Richard Yeoman revised his preface to include remarks about the growth of the popularity of world coin collecting in the United States, stating, "After more than half a century of involvement with the coin field, I must confess to having always retained a strong interest in coins of the world, as opposed to those of a particular country."

David L. Ganz contributed "An appreciation of R.S. Yeoman" to the book, with biographic and bibliographic notes on that gentleman. Ganz concluded with a prophecy, "It is a tribute to Richard Yeoman that this book is now in its 13th edition, more than a quarter of a century after it was first published. It seems obvious that it is a book destined to be revised and remain in print as the true encyclopedia of the field for many years to come."

It seems more difficult to find second-hand copies of the thirteenth edition than of the twelfth, indicating that by 1983 both dealers and collectors were buying Krause and Mishler's *Standard catalog of world coins* rather than Yeoman's *A catalog of modern world coins*. A set of the brown book, then, consists of thirteen volumes:

[illegible]

Lee F. Hewitt*										4	3	2	1
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Teodor Nussbaum			11	10									
B.M. O'Hea							7	6	5				
Masamichi Oka*	13 ²	12	11	10	9								

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Ronald Posner	13 ¹								
Yann Poupinot			11	10	9				
Kurt Prober				10	9	8	7		
Toby L. Qualls		12							
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Mary Anne Randel	13 ²								
Frank Ranz		12	11	10	9				
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Mr. & Mrs. R.B. White*			11	10				
Nelson M. Whitman	13 ²							
Robert C. Willey*			11	10	9	8	7	6
Charles Wyatt	13 ²	12						
Chin Lin Yao	13 ²							
Randolph Zander*			11	10	9	8	7	6
Jeffrey S. Zarit	13	12	11	10				
Leslie Zeller					9	8		

* See entry in Clain-Stefanelli bibliography

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2. Editorial board
3. Editor
4. Coordinating editor
5. Project supervisor
6. Associate editor

Book review

by O.C.

REMY Bourne. *American numismatic periodicals 1860-1960: an illustrated collectors guide*. Minneapolis: Ramm Communications, Inc., 1990. Two volumes, 616 leaves, 22 cm.

This work, the result of five or ten years of intermittent labor by a bibliomaniac, is the record of the issues of periodicals dealing entirely or in part with numismatics in his outstanding collection of numismatic ephemera, combined with bibliographic information from E.D. Bacon's 1911 *Catalogue of the philatelic library of the Earl of Crawford*.

The two volumes are identical in format, stacks of 8 ½ by 11 inch leaves printed on only one side, held together by plastic side stitching in gold-stamped, plastic-covered boards, untrimmed. It is to be hoped that this construction is durable, since the cost of binding so many loose sheets would be prohibitively high.

A.N.P. has not one but three introductions, by John W. Adams, Q. David Bowers, and Ken Lowe. President Lowe's contribution is an essay fourteen pages long which offers an appreciative survey of the field of house organs and other numismatic magazines. The author's preface is followed by what is called an illustration index but is in fact pointers to the leaves which contain illustrations. It is not in alphabetical order. Next comes the table of contents, useful for checking whether the volumes are complete (the review copy is 105% complete, containing two 1920 sections).

The entries in this catalog are arranged more or less chronologically, grouped into decades (technically a decade is any period of ten years). The first leaf of volume two, for example, is numbered 1910.1. The first leaf for an entry usually contains a half-tone illustration from the periodical in question, often the cover or page one of the first number published, often with details of publisher, editor, format, and dates of publication. This is followed by one leaf or more containing a line for each issue of the periodical. Page columns are headed Volume, No., Month, Year, Total Pages, etc. At the foot of such pages there is space for footnotes, comments, and whole number of issues of the

subject periodical. In most cases where Mr Bourne's holdings are incomplete, blank lines are supplied to be filled in after missing numbers have been obtained.

Apart from the information taken from the Crawford catalog (properly credited), the author has recorded only data from the issues in his own collection, not utilizing the resources of, for example, the New York Public Library or the Union Catalog to determine such things as the lives of the periodicals. An enormous amount of research would be required to fill in the blanks, but it would increase the value of this guide for collectors.

The quality of the halftone illustrations varies from very good to abominable. In the review copy leaf 1900.19 contains a practically solid black rectangle, illustrating the fact that the process film used for making these halftones cannot distinguish between black type and a red cover. It would perhaps have been better to use some process other than halftone for these reproductions. The typographic interest of these illustrations is great. Here are examples of United States printing throughout a period of one hundred years, from the period when many printers thought that the more typefaces they could put on a page the better (see the illustration of *One dime*, 1880.95) to the time of the workmanlike *Whitman numismatic journal*. The title of this magazine is set in an interesting type, closely resembling a German typeface, Breite Römisch, from Schriftgiesserei Flinsch, Frankfurt a. M. but with a few small changes:

ONE DIME.

An index to American numismatic periodicals

(There are illustrations for asterisked titles)

The Alabama collector	1880.87
The amateur record	1870.35
The amateur's journal	1880.1
The American boys	1880.25
American coin and stamp review	1870.3
The American collector*	1910.3
American journal of numismatics*	1865.3
The American journal of philately and coin advertiser*	1870.57
American numismatic herald*	1870.68
American numismatist(*)	1880.68
The American numismatist*	1880.110
American stamp Mercury and numismatist*	1865.22
Avocations*	1930.19
Brock's attic*	1940.32
Bulletin* (Frank Causey Wilson)	1940.14
C. C. news*	1960.57
Cab's coin collector*	1960.13
Cabinet and album*	1890.22
The capital city philatelist*	1880.37
The centinel*	1950.39
The centry*	1950.45
Chariton gazette*	1880.64
The Chemung review*	1880.53
Chicago collectors monthly*	1900.25
Classified coin news*	1960.5
The coast coiner*	1950.11
Coin ad medium*	1960.121
The coin advertiser*	1960.123
Coin & medal bulletin*	1910.9
The coin and medal bulletin, new series*	1920.7
The coin and stamp*	1890.20
Coin and stamp journal	1865.1
The coin and stamp journal	1865.20
Coin and stamp journal*	1870.17
The coin & stamp journal*	1870.39
The coin and stamp journal of Brooklyn*	1870.49
Coin bulletin*	1960.100
The coin cabinet(*)	1900.19
The coin cabinet*	1960.69
The coin circular*	1870.21
The coin collector*	1950.1
The coin collector's journal*	1870.27
The coin collector's journal*	1890.18
Coin collectors classified*	1960.76
Coin collectors digest*	1940.18
Coin collectors digest*	1960.55

Coin collectors news (see C.C. News)	
Coin collectors' of the United States illustrated guide*	1880.3
The coin dealer*	1960.47
The coin dealer's journal*	1960.125
Coin investor*	1960.67
The coin journal*	1870.53
The coin journal*	1960.1
The coin market report*	1960.87
Coin monthly*	1960.136
Coin news*	1950.41
Coin news*	1960.3
Coin press*	1960.18
The coin press magazine*	1950.47
Coin shopper*	1960.113
The coin shopper*	1960.45
The coin shopper*	1960.74
Coin swapper*	1960.71
Coin talk magazine*	1950.50
Coin topics*	1930.15
Coin trade advertiser*	1960.20
Coin traders*	1960.90
Coin wholesaler*	1960.51
The coinnoisseur*	1960.96
Coins magazine*	1960.26
Coins unlimited*	1950.31
Cointact*	1960.32
The collector*	1890.6
The collector*	1900.17
The collector exchange*	1880.106
The collector's advertiser*	1930.11
The collector's bi-monthly directory*	1880.66
Collector's blue book*	1910.7
The collector's guide*	1880.5
The collector's journal*	1880.89
The collector's journal	1900.5
The collector's journal*	1960.134
The collector's ledger*	1880.100
The collector's ledger* (= 1880.100)	1880.108
The collector's library table*	1880.7
The collector's news	1870.62
Collector's news	1870.23
The collector's news-advertiser*	1930.13
The collector's notes*	1920.9
Collector's weekly*	1960.131
The collectors magazine*	1880.104
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The collectors' aid	1870.64
Collectors' den*	1960.129
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The collectors' world	1870.55
The collectors' world*	1880.91

The colonial newsletter*	1960.9
Common sense*	1880.78
Crayton's occasional*	1880.39
The crown & taler*	1950.26
The curio*	1890.35
The curiosity cabinet*	1870.12
The curiosity collector*	1880.19
The curiosity collector*	1880.119
The curiosity hunter*	1870.9
The curiosity shop and antiquary*	1870.25
The curiosity world*	1880.70
The David Laties newsletter*	1960.28
The Decorah numismatic journal*	1870.19
Dixie coin & stamp news*	1950.14
The dixie coin news*	1960.7
The eastern collector*	1880.43
Eastern press*	1880.121
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The elder monthly*	1900.21
The emergency money collector*	1940.27
The empire city philatelist*	1880.9
The empire state philatelist and coin & curiosity collector	1880.76
The essay-proof journal*	1940.5
The exchange*	1880.45
Far east numismatic digest*	1950.29
The flying eaglet coin journal*	1950.18
The forum*	1960.109
The gazette*	1880.62
The golden state scientist	1880.74
Granite state philatelist*	1880.11
Guttag's coin bulletin*	1920.13
Harzfeld's numismatic circular*	1870.45
The hawkeye state collector*	1880.93
The Hermes*	1880.41
Hobby news*	1920.11
The hobby reporter*	1940.16
The hobby spotlight*	1930.21
The hobby-rider*	1920.3
Hobby-swapper*	1930.1
The hobbyist*	1940.1
The home hobbyist*	1930.7
I want to buy (see comment, 1930.22)	
Illustrated: coins, tokens, medals*	1960.107
The independent philatelist*	1880.35
International currency collector*	1960.119
The Jersey coin journal*	1870.51
Katen koin kapers*	1940.34
Keim's hobby news*	1930.27
The Kentucky stamp magazine*	1880.102
The keystone stamp and coin gazette*	1880.47
Kosoff's coin bulletin*	1950.9

Δε κϋriositi kabinet*	1870.1
The Long Island collector*	1880.51
Mason's buying and selling collector's coin catalog...*	1880.58
Mason's Coin and stamp collectors' magazine*	1865.16
Mason's coin collectors' herald*	1870.60
Mason's coin collectors' magazine, new series*	1890.3
Mason's monthly coin collectors' magazine*	1870.5
Mason's monthly illustrated coin collector's magazine...*	1880.29
Mason's quarterly coin collectors' magazine*	1870.7
Medallic monthly*	1960.115
Mehl's coin chronicle*	1930.23
Mehl's coin circular*	1920.5
Mehl's numismatic monthly*	1900.27
The metropolitan numismatic journal*	1960.16
Mexican coin news*	1960.98
The Michigan philatelist(*)	1890.29
Midwest coin collectors trading post*	1950.24
The Mohawk standard*	1880.81
Mountain states coin collector*	1960.80
The Nashville coin news	1880.23
National exchange	1890.12
The new pace*	1960.85
New York stamp and coin news	1900.9
The numis-market digest*	1930.17
Numisma* (the real McCoy)	1870.41
Numisma*	1930.25
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Numismatic journal*	1960.22
Numismatic news*	1890.24
The numismatic philistine*	1900.33
Numismatic pilot to ancient coins...*	1870.37
Numismatic review*	1940.3
Numismatic scrapbook*	1930.9
Numismatic times and trends*	1960.11
Numismatic trading post*	1950.34
The numismatic traveler*	1960.117
The numismatist	1880.111
The old coin news*	1930.3
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Omaha monthly philatelist*	1900.3
One dime*	1880.95
Our American youth*	1880.31

Pace*	1960.59
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The Pennsylvania numismatist*	1890.33
The penny*	1960.41
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The philatelic weekly*	1890.31
The philatelic west*	1890.26
The philatelic west and camera news*	1890.37
Plain talk*	1880.49
Popular numismatic monthly*	1950.22
The postcard and stamp journal	1900.23
The prairie state philatelist*	1900.1
The progressive philatelist*	1890.1
Rainbow hobby news*	1940.29
The restrike*	1960.111
The southern collector*	1880.33
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The spy glass*	1890.14
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The stamp and coin gazette*	1880.60
The stamp and coin reporter	1900.11
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The U. S. philatelist	1880.27
Universal exchange magazine*	1900.15
The western antiquarian*	1865.14
Western coin collector*	1960.82
Western coin journal*	1950.43
Whitman numismatic journal*	1960.63
World coin bulletin*	1950.52
The world coin news*	1930.5
You name it?*	1950.16
The youth's exchange	1890.10
The youth's ledger*	1880.5

The printer's devil

by Joel Orosz

It happens, it seems, in every coin catalog: "possibly from the Parmelee collection", "believed to be from the Seavey collection", "ex Bushnell (?)". How many times have you read conjectural pedigrees like these and wondered to yourself, "Why didn't early collectors keep better records?" Certainly an educated collector would value any coin more highly if it really was at one time the property of Joseph Mickley. As it is, however, we shall never know the provenance of many coins for sure because our predecessors were too casual about documenting their holdings.

It seems fair to say, however, that bibliophiles without sin in this area should heave the first filing cabinet. I wager that very few of us take the time to make careful records of the books we buy. The thrill is in the chase, and once the book is purchased the joy is in the reading. There is little allure in the mundane task of recording the details of the purchase: from whom? when? how much? and so on.

Well, what of it? Does the fate of the nation hinge upon whether years later you cannot remember whether you bought a certain book from Katen or Kolbe, David or Durst? Will thousands die if you cannot recall if it cost \$25 or \$35? Will cataclysm befall if you cannot recall whether a book first graced your shelves in 1972 or 1982?

The answer, of course, is "No!", but something real and valuable is lost if we don't keep records. There are, as we all know, compelling economic reasons for doing so: such data are the basis for insurance coverage of our collections and essential for tax purposes when they are sold. While granting its importance, I have always held with Carlyle that economics is the dismal science, so enough said about that.

The real reason for keeping careful records is that it is important to perpetuate the provenance of books. In my library is a book which was once in the library of Sylvester Sage Crosby. There is no evidence in the book itself that this was the case. It is only because the Crosby relative who inherited the book kept a record of it and the collector who bought the book from her documented this fact that the link is established to one of the numismatic

immortals. Those past custodians have established a pedigree; as the current owner it is my responsibility to maintain and continue it, passing it on unbroken to the next owner.

Everyone agrees that association copies like this one should have their provenance carefully preserved. Even the humblest volumes, however, have histories; they are sold at auction, given as gifts, inherited from relatives, pass through the hands of collectors who represent the good, the bad, and the ugly. Books with even modest pedigrees are simply more interesting than those without.

Fie upon you if you scribble the information in the book itself; only those precious few among us who are destined for the numismatic pantheon when we go to our reward can actually improve a volume by such acts. Lesser mortals do, however, owe it to their posterity to turn scribe long enough to record the essentials.

The sages of Madison Avenue have recently formulated two bits of wisdom which should guide our action regarding provenance, "it's the right thing to do", so, "just do it!" Ω

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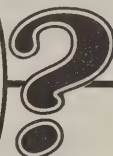
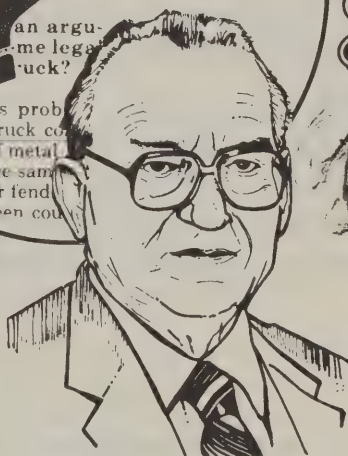
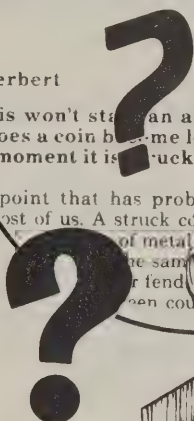
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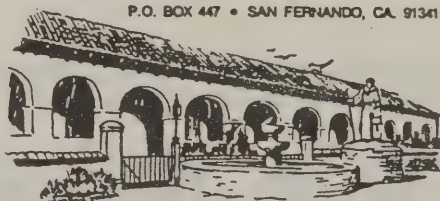
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Spell it in American!

Too many years have slipped by for reliable recall, but I'm sure I would have failed my spelling tests in grade school had I spelled catalog with the British "ue". I do know I wasn't taught to spell labor or neighbor with an "u", and I'd bet that not one native born/educated American cataloger was taught to spell catalog with "ue". I'd wager also that no American cataloger uses the word, colour, or any of the others with the pervasive "u" unless writing strictly for a British audience.

*Catalog is the preferred usage in all three of my American dictionaries, and the **Chicago Manual** and **AP&UPI Press Stylebooks** agree. Is there public demand for second preference? No!*

Why the pretense?

I don't know.

But I suspect American "uers" believe they inspire snob appeal, which infers larger sales. They try to emulate Professor Higgins but they can't because they're not U-Brits. Genuine Professor Alan Ross wasn't writing of the usage of "u" in words when he put Brits into U or non-U groups, i.e., Upper and non-Upper social classes, but it appears that some "uers" want to twist it that way, while I think something else has been twisted. Or, are they just ashamed of plain ol' American English?

A non-U, non-ue CATALOG, List the Sixth, 1600+ items, will be ready in April. Call or write for (an) Ur-copy; ewe might find something that belongs in ewer collection. It's free,

and it's patriotic; it's written in American!

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NOTE: American "uers" will be rehabilitated under terms of Catalog Convention VI.

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume IX, No. 2

Summer, 1991

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The Asylum

Vol. IX, No. 2

Summer, 1991

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NBS membership: \$15/year to North American addresses, U.S. \$20/year elsewhere via a. post. (Please do not remit foreign funds or checks.) All members receive *The Asylum* complete for the current calendar year. Send membership requests to the NBS Secretary, P.O. Box 43286, Richmond Hts OH 44143.

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NBS news & notes

John F. Bergman, now past secretary, has provided an official notification that the candidates listed on the ballot enclosed in the spring issue of this magazine have been elected and are hereby installed:

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Wayne Homren announces that there will be a regional NBS meeting during the 1991 Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists convention at the Embers Convention Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (25-27 October), to be held on Saturday. All NBS members in the area are requested to attend.

In addition, Vice-president Homren is soliciting pledges and donations to establish an ANA exhibit class for numismatic literature. Please send your donation or pledge to our treasurer, Ken Lowe, P.O. Box 43286, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143.

See the "President's page" for other scheduled meetings.

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President's page

I wish to thank all the NBS members who voted for me for president. I hope to see many of you at this year's annual meeting, to be held during the ANA convention in Chicago in August. Our meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 15 August, at 1:00 pm. This will be a good chance for us to see some fellow members we know only by name. There will also be a round-table discussion on numismatic literature, that evening, at 7:30. This should really be a special convention I hope many of our members can make.

At the annual meeting I hope we shall have information about our attempt to endow an exhibition class for numismatic literature at ANA conventions. I shall also be looking for support for more regional NBS meetings. Please let me hear from all of you who are willing to be regional helpers.

There will be a regional meeting of NBS during the Garden State Numismatic Association this June in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to take place on Saturday, 29 June. I shall be there and want to see as many of you fellow members as possible for an informal get together, naturally to talk literature.

This is a great time to be involved with numismatic literature. I recently received John Adams' volume about twentieth century numismatic auction companies. Like his nineteenth century volume, it is packed with information. The ANA is publishing two books for their centennial celebration. The first is a two volume history of the ANA by David Bowers, the second an anthology of new numismatic articles. There are many other new publications. On the auction scene, already this year we have had sales by catalogers (or cataloguers) George Kolbe, Charles Davis, The Money Tree, Katen, Orville Grady, and Function Associates. I hope I haven't left anyone out. Once upon a time there were only Katen's three sales a year to look forward to; now there are multiple sales to treat us every other month or so.

I hope to see you in Chicago!

P. Scott Rubin

Guest editorial

TO SHARE and promote our specialty within the numismatic community I propose that we endow an ANA exhibit class for numismatic literature. Here's a quick summary of ANA exhibiting: competitive exhibits are divided into twenty one classes, including U.S. coins, U.S. paper money, ancient foreign coins, modern foreign coins, error coins, love tokens, etc. The reason for the various classes is to avoid comparing apples with oranges. There are first, second, and third place prizes in each class. Winners receive suitable awards and all competitive exhibitors receive a participation medal, a banquet ticket, and a photo ID for access to the exhibit area and the security room.

Numismatic literature has been exhibited in the past, usually in the General or Specialized class. One example is Bob Wester's spectacular exhibit of Sylvester Crosby's books and memorabilia at the 1982 Boston convention. This year Armand Champa will be exhibiting parts of his fabulous library, in the non-competitive category.

If an exclusive class were established for numismatic literature, I believe more people would be encouraged to exhibit their material, enabling bibliophiles to show off their treasures to the numismatic community and promote the collecting of literature. To pay the expenses involved the ANA requires that an endowment (currently three thousand dollars) be established for the new class. The most recently added class is Primitive Money; the funds were raised by The Society of Primitive Money Collectors. I believe that it is appropriate for the members of the NBS to endow a class for our specialty. I also believe that the money should not come from our treasury but instead should be raised from interested individuals who would like to play a part in making this happen. My goal is to raise the money by the end of our annual meeting at the Centennial ANA Convention in Chicago this summer. I hope to have a few items to donate for a fund-raising auction and will pass the hat. I've spoken to several members about the idea; all are enthusiastic and some have already pledged donations. Please consider contributing to this effort and help create an outlet for promoting our hobby during ANA's next hundred years.

Wayne K. Homren

Books about U.S. silver and gold coins prior to 1837 and pioneer and territorial gold

by Jeff Rock

This is the fourth and final part of Jeff's current bibliography.

Rose, Joseph H. and Howard Hazeltorn, eds. *The comprehensive catalogue and encyclopedia of United States coins, second edition*. New York: Scott Publishing Co., 1975. xix, 363 pp., ill.

The first edition, edited by Don Taxay, is described below. This edition introduced a new coin numbering system, assigning sequential numbers to the coins, much the same as in stamp catalogs. Although this has never caught on, much the same thing has been done in Breen's Encyclopedia, to which refer. More difficult to find than the first edition. Copies usually fetch around \$25.

Rust, Alvin E. *Mormon and Utah coin and currency*. Salt Lake City, 1984. 247 pp., ill.

A thorough look at the issues of the Church of Latter Day Saints as well as contemporary issues in the area now Utah. The gold issues are described in great detail. A few of the pieces of paper money described are counterfeits produced by the infamous Mark Hoffman, who forged numerous church documents and was responsible for the two pipe-bomb murders that rocked the church. A well-written book, obviously a labor of love. Copies are available for around \$35.

Schwartz, Ted. *A history of United States coinage*. San Diego, 1980. 404 pp., ill.

A general reference book, this deals with almost all aspects of U.S. coinage, although no one subject is treated in great detail. Another good background book. Generally available or under \$20.

Smith, Andrew Madsen. *Coins and coinage: the United States mint, Philadelphia; history, biography, statistics, work, machinery, products, officials*. Philadelphia, 1881. 120 pp., line cuts and woodcuts, frontispiece of A. Loudon Snowden.

Excellent background reading, covering much the same territory as George Evans' work listed above. The ordinary issue sells for about \$30; the deluxe issue on heavy paper has brought \$125. In 1884 a second edition was prepared, shortened to 105 pages and with a frontispiece of the then superintendent of the mint, Daniel M. Fox. That sells for around \$30. The third edition, published in 1885 and 107 pages long, has brought \$35.

_____. *Visitor's guide and history of the United States mint*. Philadelphia, 1885. 175 pp., ill.

A completely rewritten and expanded version of the above book. Although this version contains much the same information as the George Evans book described earlier it is no match for the genius of Evans' promotional campaigns. Very scarce. Copies have sold for \$150 and up.

Snowden, James Ross. *A description of ancient and modern coins in the cabinet collection at the mint of the United States*. Philadelphia, 1860. 412 pp., 27 plates printed with metallic inks.

Informative background reading, with slightly more thorough descriptions of some of the U.S. issues than Comparente's book (which was issued half a century later). Fairly scarce. Copies generally sell for \$100-\$150.

Society of California Pioneers. *Catalogue of gold, silver, copper, brass, bronze and porcelain coins and medals, known for many years as the Dr. Spires' collection, and now belonging to the Society of California Pioneers*. San Francisco, 1877. 150 pp.

A descriptive listing of the coins then in the collection of the society, including several pioneer gold issues. As in most catalogs of the time, the descriptions are occasionally quite sparse, but it's easy to see that quite a few important coins were once in this collection. Copies of this book usually bring \$75 or so. In 1909 a second edition was published, 153 pages long, which describes the same coins, along with the additional pieces since acquired, including the large collection of C.T. Ward, Jr. The second edition is quite rare and in high demand. The only auction record I have for that edition is \$190.

Spring, Agnes Wright. *The First National Bank of Denver: the formative years, 1860-1865*. Denver, 1963. 46 pp., ill. 4 color plates.

This volume, which was written with the assistance of the Bank, provides the most complete history of Clark, Gruber & Co. that has been published. The illustrations and thorough descriptions make this a must-have volume for every serious collector of pioneer gold. Copies are available for around \$30. A ten page excerpt was published in The numismatist Vol. 80, No.6 (1967), pp. 691-701.

Steigerwalt, Charles. *Illustrated history of United States and colonial coins*. Lancaster, 1884. 40 pp., line cuts.

A very scarce book which gives thorough descriptions of most U.S. and colonial issues. Although quite well written, with an abundance of information, it remains unknown to most collectors, possibly because only a small number of copies have survived. The only recent auction appearances have been of a disbound reading copy at over \$125 and a better preserved copy at \$200.

Stewart, Frank H. *History of the first United States mint, its people and its operations*. Privately printed, 1924. 209 pp., ill.

Well written. Many of the illustrations are of the demolition of the first U.S. mint, which Stewart's electrical company owned. Very scarce, most copies having been destroyed in a fire. This book has sold for \$50 to \$100. The reprint issued by Quarterman in 1974 can be found for around \$30.

Taxay, Don. *Counterfeit, mis-struck and unofficial U.S. coins*. New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1963. 221 pp., ill.

A great piece of numismatic literature, giving details on minting techniques, counterfeiting, alterations, famous forgeries, and a section on mint errors. Not difficult to locate; copies can be had for around \$10. In 1976 it was reissued in soft covers with the text unchanged. The softcover issue seems a bit tougher to find, though it seldom brings more than \$5.

_____. *The U.S. mint and coinage: an illustrated history from 1776 to the present*. New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1966. 400 pp., ill.

One of the best all-around works on numismatics written in the last quarter century. Gives a wealth of information about the establishment of the first mint, the second Philadelphia mint, and the present mint. A forward by Gilroy Roberts, then chief engraver, is included. Required reading for every serious numismatist. Copies are quite scarce and have consistently sold for \$30 or \$35. The low-quality reprint issued by Durst of New York in 1984 is still available for around \$25.

_____, ed. *Scott's comprehensive catalogue and encyclopedia of U.S. coins*. New York: Scott Publishing Co., 1970. 397 pp., ill.

A worthy predecessor to Walter Breen's Encyclopedia, this book was written from the extensive notes made by Breen in the late 1960's. It is a well written work, describing and illustrating colonials, regular U.S. issues, patterns, proofs, branch mint proofs, off-metal strikes, fantasy coins, replicas, and private gold coins. Although the rarity and pricing information is now obsolete the book presents a wealth of information and is well worth the \$15 or so it usually commands. The second edition was edited by Joseph Rose and Howard Hazelcorn and has already been listed.

Thompson, Walter. *How United States coins are made*. 1962. 48 pp., ill.

Reprinted from The numismatic scrapbook, this gives a short history of the early mints and a fairly thorough view of present engraving and striking methods, though not in the detail of Breen's Dies and coinage described earlier. Readily available at under \$5.

Valentine, Daniel Webster. *The United States half dimes*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1931. 79 pp., 47 plates.

This standard reference, No. 48 of the society's Numismatic Notes and Monographs, includes historical and die information. Quite scarce, as are all early ANS publications, it has sold for as high as \$125. The Quarterman reprint issued in 1975 has been extended to 273 pages by the addition of Walter Breen's 1958 United States half dimes: a supplement; Harold P. Newlin's 1883 A classification of the early half dimes of the United States..; Will W. Neil's The United States half dimes from 1829 through 1873 and Addenda to list of United States half dimes, which appeared in the August and December of 1927 issues of The numismatist; along with previously unpublished listings of new varieties by David J. Davis and additional observations and a price guide by Kamal Ahwash. The Quarterman reprint, which is of high quality, is now out of print and usually sells for \$40 or more.

Watson, David K. *History of American coinage*. New York, 1899. 274 pp.

This book deals mainly with numismatic legislation; it makes good background reading. The fairly scarce copies have generally sold for around \$75. The second edition ("Revised and Enlarged") was also issued in 1899. It is available for around \$50. The 1970 reprint (New York: Burt Franklin Press), although quite scarce, generally sells for around \$30.

Wilson, Neil C. *400 California Street: the story of the Bank of California...* San Francisco, 1964. 87 pp., ill.

Still the standard reference on the Bank of California and the role it played in the local finances. Of great interest to both the numismatist and the general history buff. Copies can be found for \$30.

Yeoman, Richard S. *A guide book of United States coins: catalog and price list 1616 to date*. Racine: Whitman Publishing Co., 1947. Ill.



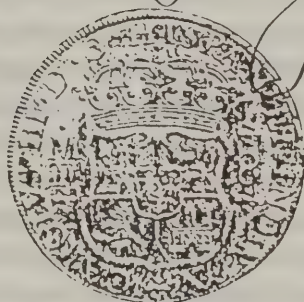
Numerous editions since the first. What better way to end this listing than with one of the first books purchased by most U.S. collectors? Although there are always complaints about out-dated prices, incomplete information, and omissions, the redbook is still the most popular pocket-sized reference available in numismatics. Prices range from under \$1 for some editions to over \$300 for the first. For anyone contemplating owning condition rarities in numismatic literature I note the sale of a mint example of the first edition for \$2500, though none of the grading services has offered to slab it as of yet. The third, fourth, and fifth editions seem to be the hardest to find in nice condition, though the

supply still seems large enough to cover the demand.

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What will become the pride of some lucky bibliomaniac is the first copy of the first edition of the **redbook**, to be sold in the Bowers and Merena auction to be held during the ANA convention in Chicago in August. In a 1982 letter which now accompanies the book Yeoman stated, "Stuart Mosher [to whom the book is inscribed] was editor of *The Numismatist* at the time and later became Curator of Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution. We were very good friends, and during this period he was a great help to me in perfecting historical and technical data when I was putting the Red Book together for its initial publication. I unhesitatingly inscribed the first copy to him as grateful recognition of his generous and invaluable contributions to the catalogue."

Copy No. 1 Nov. 4, 1946
 To my faithful friend, Stuart Mosher
 R. H. Youman



THE SPANISH MILLED DOLLAR

The Coin of Our Nation's Founders

The Spanish milled dollar otherwise known as the "pillar dollar" and "piece of eight" has been given a place in romantic fiction unequalled by any other coin.

This time-honored piece was the chief coin of the American colonists and actually was the forerunner of our own silver dollar. It had become so fundamentally a part of the everyday course of business during the colonial period that its official adoption as the standard unit of value for United States money was a natural and desirable development.

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A sixteenth century coin collector and his book

by David Block

Reprinted with permission from the NI Bulletin of November 1974, vol.8, no.11.

Early numismatic books are closed to most collectors in this country because of their rarity and because of the languages in which they are written. The present translation of the dedication and part of the preface of an early French book on Roman coins will be found interesting as showing us a French collector of four centuries ago condemning coin investors and apologizing for himself spending more time and money than he should on coins.

Antoine Le Pois was born in Nancy in 1525. His father, who was apothecary to the duke of Lorraine, sent Antoine to Paris to be educated. After studying medicine under Jacque [sic] Dubois, Antoine returned to Nancy to become the resident physician to Duke Charles III. We may assume that the duties of the resident physician were light and remunerative, because he had the time and money necessary to form and study a collection of Roman coins and engraved gems, as well as to write a book about them. M Le Pois was a one book man and died a year before that one was published. The fate of his collection seems not to be known.

Here is the full title of the book in French:

DISCOVERS SVR LES MEDAILLES ET/ GRAVEURES ANTI-/ques,
principalement/ Romaines./ Plus, une Exposition particuliere de quelques
planches ou tables/ estans sur la fin de ce liure, esquelles sont monstrees/
diuerses Medailles & graueurs anti-/ques, rares & exquises./ Par M. ANTOINE
LE POIS, Conseiller & Medicin/ de Monseigneur le Duc de Lorraine./
[Stephanus NOLI ALTUM SAPERE SED TIME emblem]/ A Paris,/ Par
Mamert Patisson Imprimeur du Roy,/ au logis de Robert Estienne./
M.D.LXXIX./ AVEC PRIVILEGE.

A quarto with pages 15.5 x 22 cm., the book contains about three hundred pages and contains several woodcuts in the text as well as the twenty etched plates at the end, the latter done by Pierre Woëriot, a goldsmith and engraver of some note. Although the book is considered rare, copies may be found in

the Library of Congress, the British Library, and elsewhere. Humphrey refers to du Pois alias Le Pois several times in his *Coin collector's manual*.

The French in which the book is written is not literary; in places it is so bad that an expert in seventeenth century French finds it difficult to believe that Le Pois was French. But I suppose that to many Frenchmen anyone born in Nancy would be a foreigner. At any rate, I thank Professor Claude Abraham for his help in some thorny places, while absolving him from blame for the errors I have made in places where I failed to consult him.

A Discourse on Coynes and Antient Engraued Gems, mainly Roman, plus a detailed exposition of certain plates or tables placed at the end of this book, in which are shewn various coyne and engraued gems which are rare and exquisite, by M. Antoine le Pois, Councilloz, and Physician to My Lord the Duke of Lozraine. Paris: Mamert Patisson, mdcxxix.

To the very high and very powerful Prince Charles, Duke of Lozraine, &c. My Lord, it has come about the my brother, Master Antoine le Pois, your physician and your very humble seruant, has died before he could put the finishynge touches on the Discourse which he had written on coyne and antient engraued gems, although hardly anythynge remained to be done except to decozate it with an epistle and to present it to Your Highness, to whom from the beginnyng he deuoted and dedicated it. What he could not achieue was the satisfaction and rewards he hoped for from the greates labour he engaged in for this work, about which I shall say the although it seems small in appearance, it is completely exquisite and of great value, as those who haue knowledge of antiquity can iudge, and they will see many rare and singular thynges well explained and brought into the light which the iniury of time has obscured and, as it were, wound in a shroud. What inspired him to write this discourse and the series of remarks which he has made and elaborated on an infinitie of coyne which had passed through his handes was the he was aware the Your Highness and the of your late Lady (the honour of the Princesses of this century) took greates pleasure in antient coyne; euen as you wished to haue those of the late Maistre Claude Theuenin, Prior of Saint Richolas, beautiful and numerous, and

researched for him at great expence, as well in Italy as in other foreign countries. For I understandynge of these I authorit proposed to offer Your Highness this Discourse, written in French although it would haue bene much simpler and easier for him to write it in Latin. For haunynge gathered it from I best Greek and Latin authors, he could haue used their diction and more properly expressed their meanings without translatynge them into another language. Anyway, I labour and travail he employed in this book were very agreeable to him, as much for I contentment and pleasure which you, My Lord, may take (as also My Lady would haue taken if it had pleased God to grant her a longer life) as also for haunynge bene inuited to it by I liberality of Your Highness, by which he was pleased to defray part of I expences which were incurred for I engrauynge of I tables and plates of I said coynes, which will be found to be much more beautiful and neat than any which haue bene seen up to I present.

Now, My Lord, this Work, such as it is, belongs of good right to you, and I authorit not haunynge bene able to offer it to you, I haue thought it to be my duty (seconded by Rene de la Rielle, his son-in-law, one of I Auditors of Accounts of Lorraine and Comptroller of your house) to present it to you and to beg very humbly I you agree I under your fauour it pass into I hands of men who, because of I fruits they receiue from it will be obliged to thank you and with us to beseech I Eternal to bless Your Highness and increase it with all honour and prosperity.

Preface, in which is treated I utilitie and I profit which come from I knowledge of coynes and antient engrauid gems, as well as pleasure and delectacyon.

All of those things which please and recreate I spirit and bring at I same time profit and utility are commonly preferred and more valued by all men. Horace says I among I poets I one who has reached I goal and carried off I prize is he who has mixed utility with sweetness and delectacyon and who can at I same time both please and bring profit to I reader. Not only in literature but in all other matters this is found to

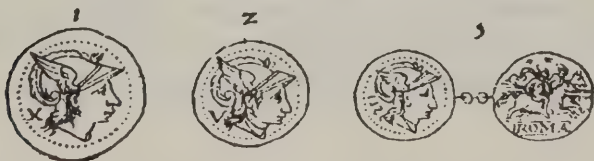
be true, & is to say, & profit seasoned with pleasure and delight for euery reason content people much more than & one separated from & other. Anyway, I shall contain myself in my limits and say only & & knowledge and understandinge of what is bozne on and signified by coynes and antient engraued gems, of which it is our intention to speak, beyng not only full of great recreation and pleasure but also of great profit, as will be shewn hereafter, haue made so satisfied and content certain learned men of our times & they haue employed both a good sum of money in & acquisition and recovery of all sorts of coynes and engraued gems and a good deal of time in discoueryng on them and researchyng carefully and perhaps too curiously what they portend to say and signify. For my part I confesse, although I don't understand much and haue spent more time than I should haue, considering my vocation, considering also & it would haue bene much better to haue occupied myself with a careful and diligent research of & Holy Scriptures, as we are commanded, and in truth neither in this nor in many other such things can such great curiosity be found good, unless by men who are themselves naturally curious. Now & pleasure and delight which come from dealing with coynes and gems very often transport people, making them forget their other businesses, affairs, and duties, to & extent & I shall not speak here of a conetous and greedie cupidity to amass a great number and quantity of gold and silver coynes as gold and silver, withyng to condemn this as a manifest and wholly notozious auarice. Because it is known & they ordinarily cost those who are studious and louers of antiquity much more than they are worth, and euen then ones of bronze and copper are sometimes sold at an excessive price if you consider what material they are. This I know too well myself, who once bought a coyne with an inscription of Scripio Africanus for four ecus of gold, and its material would haue bene bought dearly for four deniers tournois; add to & & opinion I haue & it might be counterfeited and not really antient. I shall not mention here some of & gentlemen of our time who haue bought them at an excessive price, as some haue declared in writyng; such is our will and pleasure, exceeding very often all reason, as is euen more euident and apparent in regard to pearls and precious stones, which are daily bought only to delight our eyes and are

worth, as they say, only & which one giues & merchants and venders for them. On & contrary, there are many who don't think coynes are a big affaire and when they see them do not bother to pick them up from & ground, & ones which are a different metal than gold or silver (because they collect those for & value of & material they are composed of) and some euen find us strange to look unreasonably long, to handle and rehandle a coyne so many times, to study it for a long time and to dream ouer it, thinkynge all this labour wayne. But let it not displease them; educated men do not talk this way about it. For after hailyng considered them well, besides & often one recognizes there & hand of a particular workman and from this sees & antiquity had at times excellent souls and artifans, like painters, engrauers, and sculptors, statue makers and image carriers and others of whom I do not want to speak here, whose work giues shame to & workers of today, who freely admit them to be inimitable today; besides, I say, & graceful skill one often sees on & said coynes, & principal thyng is & from them you reach & knowledge not only of many epithets, words, and expressions peculiar and proper to antiquity, but also of many practical things from them. The same may be said of antient engraved gems, of which I shall not speak now, referringe & reader to what I shall write about them later. Al of what I haue said will be better understood from a few specific examples which I shall bynge up, speakinge only of coynes, because all of our present discourse will present them to & eye, and more than sufficiently.

first, as to & Latin words and expressions, & coynes teach us how many of them should be written, and sometimes differently than we write them today; indede, we shall shew some which teach what certain Latin words and expressions signify and mean. The coyne of & Dictator Sylla, which you will see later on, calls him Sulla instead of Sylla, which is better than we say it. Another coyne of mine says Paullus for Paulus. Another Paula, not Paulla. Another Paulina, not Paullina. Another Iuno Silpita, for Sospita. Another Libertas, for Libertas. Another Primus, for Primus; and Cerialia, for Cerealia; as antiently D was put for C in common writing; also noted H, as appears in & Epitaph of Confidius, which is at

Rome outside & flaminian Gate, in & vinyard of Pope Julius, on which is read Patrone BHAHMHAKTJ, fo2 Benemerenti. LVBHJS POSTHJSOUH fo2 Liberis posterisque, &c. The sixth coyne which we put on & plate marked J teaches us what Consecratio is (called by & Greeks Apotheosis) because such a coyne represents fo2 us & funeral pyre and & tabernacle which were set up fo2 deceased Roman empero2s when one wanted to add them to and number them with their other gods, iust as Herodian describes it, speakynge of & Empero2 Senerus, in such a way & if one wanted to take & trouble to compare such a coyne with this passage of Herodian, one would understand much more easily what he wilshes to say, which one cannot grasp without that. Which will be apparent from what we haue quoted from & said Herodian when we display & said coyne later on. But who would think & so many graceful things, used and practiced by & antients, haue bene bzought to our awarenels by & benefits and means of antient coynes and engrained gems? They exp2ess to & life fo2 us and shew to our eyes, now many kinds of temples, altars fo2 sacrifice, various ensigns and oznaments of & Pontificate, vases and other instruments proper fo2 sacrifice, now & Curule seat, reserved fo2 & magistrates; & fasces and rods carried befoze & Consuls and Praeto2s; so many kinds of different arms; chariots with two, thre, four hozses; so many trophies and equestrian statues and others; so many instruments useful fo2 war and to demolish fortresses, like & ram named Aries, an antient machine to beat down walls and other enclosures, about which & antient autho2s speak. The antient coyne from Cyrene puts befoze our eyes & plant called Silphium, which is & Laser so celebrated by & antients fo2 its iuice, called Lasepitiu2, which plant has not bene seen since & time of & Empero2 Nero, if we beliene what Pliny wrote about it. J shall not speak about all & kinds of crowns which we haue noticed on these coynes and gems....

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Why collect books about coins?

by Dr Joel J. Orosz

The following article appeared in the May 1991 issue of The U.S. coin collector and is reprinted here by kind permission of the editor of that journal (Mr William Atkinson) and of Dr Orosz.

WHEN Bill Atkinson asked me to write an article introducing NCCA members to numismatic bibliomania my first reaction was to reply, "No, thanks!" There are not many people who collect books about coins, maybe 3000 tops, and I *like* it that way. Prices for most books are low, dealers are honest, and there is not an investor in sight. Of course that is the way it used to be in the coin hobby too, before it mushroomed into the speculator-infested jungle that it has become today. So, to be honest, I welcome growth in my hobby with all the warmth I usually reserve for pestilence, running sores, and toxic waste.

Upon further reflection, however, I decided that growth *per se* is not the problem, it is growth among the greedy that spoiled numismatics. It struck me that the readers of *The U.S. Coin Collector* are by definition collectors, just the kind of people who would be welcome additions to any hobby. No self-respecting investor would read such a publication; indeed, it seems that few of them read any sentence that does not end with an exclamation mark, so there is no danger that pitching my hobby in this forum will lead to investment grade or generic books tomorrow. So I decided to write this article. But please, I beg of you, if a market maker approaches eat this article!

Why collect numismatic literature? I give you seven reasons:

1. Bibliomania is purely for collectors. As far as I know there is not one person in the world who invests in books about coins. Everyone who buys and trades in this market is a pure and simple collector. In fact, bibliomania today reminds me very much of the golden age of coin collecting in the late nineteenth century; today as then there are a few thousand book collectors and a handful of respected dealers, with a true sense of fraternity among them. Admittedly the brothers sometimes squabble, as in any fraternity, but generally we form an extended family held together by our love for books.

2. Grading is not a big deal. Oh, we care whether or not a book is pristine, but its condition rarely has much impact on its market value. Can you imagine being in a hobby in which a microscopic scratch that you didn't notice doesn't make your purchase worth half of what you just paid for it? Imagine being part of a hobby where there are at most seven grades! However, we have never felt the need to set up a formal grading system! Imagine being able to grade all by your own little self, not having to pay a service to tell you how your book rates! Imagine, if you can, a hobby without a single slab! Is this paradise, or what?

3. Great rarities are available cheap. At one time or another we all have lusted after the great coin rarities, those which have fewer than fifty surviving examples. Our lust must go unrequited, however, because great rarities command great prices. Unless you can afford blithely parting with thousands upon thousands of dollars, the closest you will ever come to these coins is the display area of a major numismatic convention. And if you want to own the *creme de la creme*, say a Brasher doubloon or an 1822 half eagle, you had better qualify for a place in the Forbes list of America's wealthiest people. While it is true that there are several numismatic books and catalogs for which you will have to pay thousands, large plated Chapman catalogs for instance, there are rarities by the dozen that are dirt-cheap. I have several books in my library that have survived in very limited numbers but for which I paid less than fifty dollars. There is also the thrill of the chase: sets of periodicals and catalogs can be assembled without great expense. Not only is it fun to chase down full sets piece by piece; completion results in a splendid collection. Diligence and good judgment make it possible to build a world-class numismatic library with relatively modest means.

4. Literature dealers are honest. Breathes there a coin collector of any experience who has not been had by an unscrupulous dealer? Back when I was a coin collector I took my share of baths. Granted, the majority of coin dealers are ethical business people, but that is cold comfort when you have been swindled by one of the unsavory ones. It will amaze you, but in nearly ten years of active buying from a dozen numismatic literature dealers, amounting to hundreds of transactions, I have never, not once, been cheated. Sure, I have disagreed with the grading from time to time, but since grading has very little

effect on price, that really does not matter. In virtually every case I have received items exactly as described and got every penny of my money's worth.

5. Today we are in the golden age of collecting numismatic literature. In the late nineteenth century only a few thousand people in the United States were coin collectors. Prices were low, rarities were within reach, and the hobby was uncontaminated by speculators. A handful of dealers served their brethren and they were personally known to the collectors. Dealers and collectors alike tended to be well-informed and frequently disputed points with each other in a lively manner. For coin collectors that era is as dead as last week's chart-busting pop record, but it lives on in the field of numismatic literature.

6. Treasures abound in the trash. With rare exceptions the only way to get a collectible coin today is to buy it, usually at a hefty mark-up. Collectible books about coins, however, can often be found for five dollars or less at second-hand bookstores, fund-raising book sales, even garage sales and flea markets. I haunt such venues, both in my home town and on my travels. While I quite often come up empty handed, occasionally I discover real bargains. For example, I acquired a like new copy of the 1980 Red Book from a library book sale, paying thirty three cents for a volume that had a fair market value of fifteen dollars. Even when my searching yields nothing I have the fun of the quest. To put it in numismatic terms, you can still find lots of collectible books in circulation.

7. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Have I got a deal for you! For a mere fifteen simoleons you can become a member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS), a group of collectors who are, as the name suggests, crazy about coin books. The most visible benefit of membership is *The Asylum*, a four-times-a-year journal featuring lively articles about coin books, catalogs, periodicals, and ephemeral pieces like price lists, brochures, and flyers. Although there have been serious coin collectors in the our land since the seventeen sixties and publications about coins since the eighteen forties, it was not until the nineteen sixties that a significant number of people began to collect the literature; therefore there is still much undiscovered, and *The Asylum* is the place to learn more about these discoveries-- or to contribute things you have learned.

Another benefit of NBS membership is the annual meeting, held at each annual ANA convention. An evening is given over to a speaker, a spirited question-and-answer period, and the all-important expedition to local eateries afterwards. These get-togethers are wonderfully educational and give members a chance to meet the likes of NBS colleagues Dave Bowers, Eric Newman, and Walter Breen. This is not the only chance to congregate; meetings are also held from time to time at regional coin conventions.

These seven reasons should be enough for anyone to start collecting books about coins. As you get into it you will soon find that numismatic bibliomania separates the men from the boys. Since it is purely a hobby, no investment angle whatsoever, there is no way you can do it and claim to be a collector-investor. There seem to be thousands of coin collectors who claim to be such unholy hybrids. This is absolute nonsense. Either you collect something because you like it, or you invest because you want to make a profit. It is impossible to do both. With numismatic books there's only one way, the collector's way. So the door is open for all you real collectors out there. Write to the numismatic literature dealers listed in issue 4 of *The U.S. Coin Collector* and get on their mailing lists. Bidding is simple; the dealers even provide a handy estimate for each lot, so you don't have to learn the hard way. Join the NBS, begin looking for books around your community and start having fun. I guarantee you'll never regret it. Ω

A checklist of numismatic fiction by Forrest Daniel

THE day after the autumn issue of *The Asylum* arrived, with Joel Orosz's item about Raymond Chandler's *High window* and his challenge for a bibliography of fiction with a numismatic theme I found a copy of that book on a bargain counter. I have re-read my shelf of such fiction and made up a list. A few may be thin on numismatic content, but so are many of the items in my collection. I have several novels about banking, gold and silver dealing, and related subjects, by Paul Erdman and others which can be read with appreciation by collectors. They have not been included in the following list.

Basile Aleksandri. *Istoriy odnogo zolotogo*. Kihinev: Izdatelbstvo Lumina, 1971.
The adventures of a gold coin. Juvenile.

Lionel Black. *The penny murders*. New York: Avon Books, 1980.

Prominent collector murdered after coin auction in London. Reporter looks for missing coins: English pennies dated 1933 and 1954 and Edward III thrupeny bit.

James P. Blaylock. *The last coin*. Ace Books, 1988.

The person who gathers all the thirty pieces of silver of Judas Iscariot will gain incalculable power to control the world-- the coins must be kept apart. Pennyman has all but the last one, and it's a curious heirloom of a zany, practical-joking innkeeper. Pennyman is a lodger at the inn. Fantasy.

Lawrence Block. *The burglar who studied Spinoza*. Pocket Books, 1982.

Bookseller/thief steals a 1913 V nickel.

Raymond Chandler. *The high window*. Vintage Books, 1976.

Philip Marlow and a Brasher doubloon.

Raymond Chandler. "No crime in the mountains" in *Killer in the rain*. Ballantine Books, 1983.

On the trail of counterfeit notes. Nazi smuggling.

Manning Coles. *Not negotiable*. Berkley Medallion Books, 1964.

French and British police after pushers of Nazi counterfeit coins.

John Creasy. *Follow the Toff*. Prestige Books, 1961.

While tracing a passer of counterfeit paper money the Hon. Richard Rollison, the Toff, encounters an international counterfeiting ring with an artists' agent as a front. Murder is a supplemental industry.

Martin Davies. *The gold machine*. Pinnacle Books, 1979.

The Beirut counterfeiter produces gold coins for the numismatic and bullion trade. He arranges the theft and replication of a four million dollar collection.

Franklin W. Dixon. *The melted coins*. Grosset & Dunlap, 1944.

The Hardy Boys look for buried treasure, counterfeit coins, and stolen coin collections. Juvenile.

Jack Finney. *The Woodrow Wilson Dime*. Simon and Schuster, 1968.

The Woodrow Wilson dime is the passport to a parallel world. Sci Fi.

Jonathan Gash. *Gold by gemini*. Penguin Books, 1988.

After a collection of British-Roman coins is stolen from a museum, antiques dealer Lovejoy learns the donor knew of a hoard dating to the Gemini legion and Suetonius and goes after it. Much about the antiques business.

O. Henry. "One dollar's worth" in *The complete works of O. Henry*. Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

The evidence in a counterfeiting case disappears in an unusual manner.

_____. "The tale of a tainted tenner" in *The complete works*.

A ten dollar treasury note, series of 1901, in conversation with bills of other denominations, tells of travels and experiences in New York City and how it became tainted money. Some numismatic snapshots as well.

_____. "Two renegades" in *The complete works*.

The Confederate States of America comes to the aid of a Union veteran in a Central American revolution.

Herman Melville. Chapter 45 of *The confidence-man*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston Inc., 1964.

In many guises the confidence man appears to passengers on a Mississippi riverboat, playing on their weaknesses, gullibility, and prejudices. Here a man compares a well-worn banknote to a bank note detector description and is dismayed.

Albert F. Nussbaum. "The counterfeit conman" in *Tricks and treats*, eds. Joe Gores and Bill Pronzini. The Crime Club, 1976.

A modern switch on the green goods swindle.

Gerald Petievich. *Money men*. Pinnacle Books, 1982.

Secret service agent Charles Carr on the bloody trail of a con-man counterfeiter with a killer associate who leaves no witnesses.

_____. *One-shot deal*. Pinnacle Books, 1983.

Agent Carr investigates the disappearance of currency paper from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and discovers a plate for printing \$100,000 Treasury bills.

Keith Robertson. *The money machine*. Tempo Books, 1971.

Teen-age detectives lead secret service to paper money counterfeiters. Juvenile.

Norm Rudman and Ernie Sheldon. *Dirty money*. Paperback Library, 1972.

Explicit sexual odyssey of the BEP engraver who engraved erotic drawings on U.S. \$5 plates. The bills went into circulation.

Richard Sapir and Warren Murphy. *Funny money*. Pinnacle Books, 1975.

Martial arts master Remo Williams challenges an android counterfeiter which produces perfect Federal Reserve notes.

Stephan Sheppard. *The four hundred*. Summit Books, 1979.

In 1873 four Americans led by George and Austin Bidwell used well forged documents to bilk the Bank of England out of £400,000. A novel based on an actual event. (George Bidwell told the story in his own book, *Bidwell's travels from Wall Street to London Prison*. Hartford, 1897.)

Richard Stark, a.k.a. Donald E. Westlake. *The rare coin score*. Fawcett Publications, 1967.

A professional thief knocks off a coin convention.

George Wyatt. *The case of the counterfeit coin*. Golden Press, 1960.

Buried treasure, stolen coin collections, and teen-age detective Brains Benton using infra-red photography to apprehend counterfeiters of ancient Greek coins. Juvenile.

Ω

The printer's devil

by Joel Orosz

It is time once more for the bestowing of the least coveted awards in numismatics, the notorious Shammies. For the second year running the Academy of Wretched Excess in Numismatic Advertisement, also known as your humble columnist, served as sole judge for these citations, which celebrate excellence in the employment of hyperbole to increase sales. The academy has noticed a decrease in the quality of this year's winners, a fact no doubt attributable to the collapse of the coin investment market in the second half of 1990. This crash beggared legions of speculators and bankrupted many investor-oriented dealerships and grading services and was, in my opinion, an all-around good thing. Enough introduction-- the envelopes, please!

The Neatest Trick of the Year Award goes to the Pobjoy Mint Ltd of Sutton, U.K., which has at last found a way to increase the amount of the profit from buying the twenty ounce Angel-- after all, it is "America's fastest growing Gold Bullion coin".

Coin World, 20 Feb. 1991, p 20

The Just What We Needed, Another Meaningless Grade Award goes to the American Rare Coin Fund L.P. of Beverly Hills for shilling "United States Coins of Museum Quality for the Serious Collector and Investor". One can only wonder if these coins are merely museum quality or if they are museum quality PQ.

Coin World, 20 Feb. 1991, p 31

The History is Bunk Award goes to Mount Vernon Coin Company of Annandale for the following piece of revisionist history: "One hundred years ago, the American Numismatic Association was founded, bringing together coin enthusiasts of all ages. The Silver Dollar in use then was the Morgan, perhaps the most beautiful coin ever minted, and certainly an inspiration to the new ANA members of 1891". History, of course, records that most numismatists at the close of the nineteenth century considered the coin an aesthetic travesty. The eagle on the reverse was derisively compared to a turkey, and the cartwheel was nicknamed the Bland dollar, a pun upon its design and its congressional champion.

Coin World, 20 Feb. 1991, p 111

The Unintentional Candor Award goes to Coast to Coast Coins of Fulton for an ad published in the midst of the great market crash of 1990. It said, "Hold on to your hats, the market's on the move!" This line is illustrated by a picture of a rollercoaster—going downhill! *Numismatic News*, 11 Sept. 1990

The I Have Also Perfected a Perpetual Motion Machine Award goes to CompuGrade of Metairie, Louisiana for their introduction of a computer that can do "more objective, consistent, repeatable grading" including such grades as MS 65.5, their tag line saying, "CompuGrade: Because to err is human." Hmm. I wonder if they know who designs, builds, and programs computers?

Coin World, 13 Feb. 1990, p 39

The Profiteering From War by Tasteless Ridicule Award goes to the Money Company of Tarzana for peddling a 0.999 silver bar titled "Iraqi Mobile Missile Launcher". The bar depicts a camel with a Scud missile in its mouth, about to have its testes crushed by a large mallet wielded by a berobed Iraqi. Be sure to strike a blow for taste and tolerance by buying one today.

Numismatic News, 1991 souvenir edition, p. 28

While we are on the subject, the ANA needs an **Ad Screener Award** goes to Paul Bosco of New York, who in an ad headed "Fantasy & Reality— you think you can distinguish them!" describes an English silver medal of Cromwell thus: "Reverse depicts Louis XIV performing oral sex on seated Britannia". Can a swim suit issue of *The Numismatist* be far behind?

The Numismatist, May 1990, p. 768

See lot #204 in the catalog of the Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 24 May 1897 sale of the Montagu Collection of medals commemorative of British history. Only the

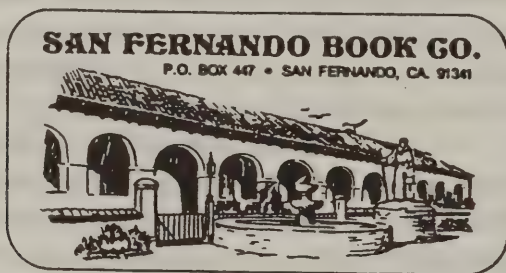
obverse, Captain General Oliver Cromwell, is illustrated on plate 1. The medal brought £30 10s. editor

The Casey Stengel Award for Torture of the English Language goes to Panda America of Torrance for their description of the Australian koala as "A unique animal and a unique investment". *Coin World*, 20 March 1991, p. 32

The Noah Webster, Phone Your Office Award goes to this year's only double winner, American Rare Coin Trading Group Inc. of Beverly Hills. This group, which is led by a former Smithsonian Institute curator, announces, "our approach to clients is discrete, entirely professional, and educational". They might begin by educating themselves about the difference between *discrete*, meaning *separate*, and *discreet*, meaning *prudent*. If their service really is discrete, it is indiscreet of them to admit it. *Coin World*, 20 Mar. 1991

The Mother of All Markdowns Award goes to the Ivy Press for its offer to sell a book titled *How to grade U.S. coins*, "A \$1 million value yours for only \$11.95". At savings of \$999,988.05 this shows that Feldman was right— you should buy the book before the coin! *Coin World*, 20 Mar. 1991, p. 32

The second presentation of the Shammies is now history. But please join us next year in this same space for Shammies III: the investors strike back!



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Book review

by O.C.

JOHN W. Adams. *United States numismatic literature, Volume II, Twentieth century auction catalogs*. Crestline: George Frederick Kolbe Publications, 1990. 25 cm. 420 pages plus frontispiece and 21 plates. Pictorial end-papers.

Although with the publication on optical disk of *The Oxford English dictionary* it would seem that the death knell for the book as we know it has sounded, the appearance of volume two of John Adams' magnum opus, following volume one by eight or nine years, shows that dedicated bibliophiles have not yet succumbed to the insidious computer. The difficulties Mr Kolbe, the editor, surmounted in attempting to insure that volume two would be identical in make-up to volume one are largely unrecorded; he is to be congratulated for nearly succeeding.

Mr Adams is well-known to bibliomaniacs who collect U.S. auction catalogs because of his volume I, *Nineteenth century auction catalogs*. Volume II covers what Mr Adams calls the dark ages of U. S. auction catalogs, "a generation of catalogues designed to sell merchandise and then be discarded rather than to educate and be retained." Although the new volume focuses on the series of auction catalogs which began in the twentieth century, Adams has again been selective rather than attempting to be all-inclusive. Following the form of his first volume, he begins with a portrait and thumb-nail biography of each cataloger, along with a lightly annotated listing of his catalogs. Part two contains Adams' forte, grades for the contents of the catalogs. A researcher who wants to check auction listings for large cents can discover in short order which sales were graded A for large cents by Adams (although locating copies of the indicated catalogs is not so easy). Of course devotees of auction sales realize (or should) that prices realized lists must be taken with a grain of salt; it is not unknown to list a price for an item which was in fact bought back by the consignor or his agent. Then too, it would be immoral but reasonable for the auction house itself to make a higher bid for items it thought could be sold for more than any bidder offered.

Those of us who do numismatic research have a new tool available in the form of John W. Adams' latest book, *United States numismatic literature*, volume two. Like volume one, this book gives us information on selected numismatic auction firms, their history, and the sales they have created. This time around we are treated to twentieth century enterprises in the same manner we were their nineteenth century counterparts. While the book looks the same (this accomplished by the diligent efforts of its publisher, George Kolbe) except for size, this volume being longer, the tone of the comments about some of the firms is different. This may be because some of the people were still available for personal interviews. Whatever the case, the information about the individual firms is quite revealing. The grading of each sale is in the same format as in the first volume. The grades are from C- to A+; it is interesting to guess which sales would have received a lower rating if Mr Adams had decided to have grades starting with F.

ANA Governor Candidates

Please consider casting your ballot in favor of the following candidates for ANA officer and/or board member.

Definitely merit your vote:

Kenneth E. Bressett
Donn Pearlman
Edward C. Rochette, pres.

David Ganz, vp
John J. Pittman
Nancy Wilson

Good choices for your vote:

John Eshbach
Kay E. Lenker

Ralph C. Langham
Richard R. Townsend

I know personally the first group except for Bressett, and I know the others by reputation. All ten (for only nine seats) have integrity and experience in their favor, which is not to deny the same for virtually all other candidates, and I know those cited will work diligently for the ANA membership.

Paid for by Carling Gresham, ANA LM 1229

(A private appeal; not affiliated with any candidate)

The amount of information about each sale's content is included at the back of the book, as before, and is probably the most useful chapter for the researcher. I should not forget to remind researchers that chronological and consignor indexes are also included in the back of the book.

The amazing thing about both of Mr Adams' volumes is that the information we take for granted reading these books took years of investigating all of the catalogs given grades. As I read this book I found numerous references to important sales I have overlooked during my years collecting auction catalogs. The Elder series information alone is enough to write a book about, and that is only one chapter.

The book is divided into two parts, "The cataloguers" and "Contents of the catalogues". Each part is divided into seventeen chapters, dealing with fifteen catalogers or firms, the ANA auctions (1907 to 1950), and thirty six miscellaneous sales. The fifteen catalogers are Ben Green, Thomas L. Elder, Geoffrey C. Adams, B. Max Mehl, Wayte Raymond, William Hesslein, M.H. Bolender, Barney Bluestone, Stack's, Kagin's, Hans M.F. Schulman, Abe Kosoff, New Netherlands, Frank Katen, and Michael Kolman, Jr. The miscellaneous chapter includes information on thirty six auctions conducted by sixteen different catalogers.

This 420 page book also contains photographs of the individuals mentioned. It is fun to see what some of the people we have read about for years looked like. I still see some of these people at coin shows, and this adds to my enjoyment of the book. I think anyone who collects U.S. numismatic auction catalogs or does numismatic research should rush to obtain this second volume by Mr Adams, and if you don't already own the first volume, what are you waiting for?

Ω

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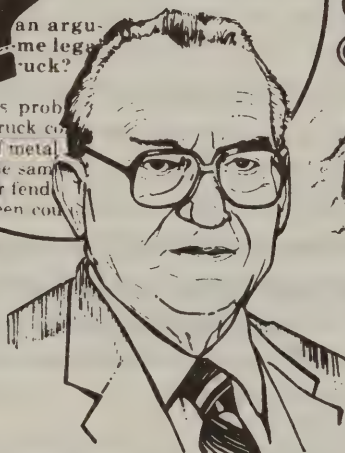
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One last time! Do it the American way!

It's gratifying to learn these advertisements are read; I refer to my ad in the last issue to which a courtly response may be found in this issue. The respondent, though, ignores my contention that catalog is the American way of spelling the English version.

Does he labour in his neighbour's house near the harbour because he's a bit off centre? Does he read a theatre programme, or a theater program? If he wears PJs, are they pajamas or pyjamas? Would he (Olympus, forbid!) plow a field, or plough it? I doubt he'd use those spellings for the sake of consistency. Any American using English spelling for just one word is faking it; there's no reason other than vanity (greed?) to use such spelling in America!

He claims "mystery and romance" for his usage, but I believe he means dollars and cents. I will agree that his version of a catalog "promises more;" more costs for clients, more profits for him. (Admitted, most of his catalog efforts are commendable.)

If "mystery and romance" are an excuse for copying the English, one might pursue the concept back to medieval [sic] days when a law required certain women to wear striped clothing to identify themselves when in public. Aha! Maybe he wears striped pyjamas!

As I don't spell catalog with ue, I can't get his free catalog; that's understandable, but heartbreaking for me and other non-uers.

Regardless of how you spell the word, you may receive without conditions my free catalogs; each is full of interesting paper widgets at sensible prices, and the next one will include many numismatic auction catalogs. Just send your name and address.

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THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume IX, No. 3

ANA Centennial, 1991

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ARCHAEOLOGY & MEDIEVAL may be the currently accepted forms but are not *ARCHAEOLOGY & MEDIEVAL* far more evocative of the mystery and romance encompassed in the essence of these words? To our way of thinking, so is it with the word CATALOGUE. One may purchase widgets in a CATALOG, but a CATALOGUE promises more: the rare, the unusual, the unique. It is what George Frederick Kolbe Fine Numismatic Books is all about. Send for our next CATALOGUE and see if you do not agree. And...if you spell it with an *u* and an *e*, it's *free*.

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NBS Membership: \$15 annual dues for North American addresses, \$20/year elsewhere. All members receive *The Asylum* for the current calendar year. Requests for membership should be submitted to The Secretary, NBS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

P. Scott Rubin

This issue of *The Asylum* has been produced earlier than usual to allow us to distribute it in Chicago at the celebration of the Centennial of the American Numismatic Association. I hope to see many of our fellow N.B.S. members at our annual meeting, Thursday August 15th at 11 A.M. Guests, as usual, are more than welcome to attend. The main speaker for this year's meeting is Michael J. Hodder, the well known cataloger and researcher of Bowers and Merena Galleries. He will present a talk about some of his experiences in researching rare coins from some of the most important collections that have appeared on the market in the last decade. In addition, yours truly will discuss the mysteries of the 1916 Gilbert Half Cent book, with some insight on solutions.

I hope that all attending the convention will, after taking part in the N.B.S. general meeting, come to the round table discussion on Numismatic Literature chaired by past president and present board member Armand Champa. This session, set for 7:30 Thursday evening, will be a lively affair with John Ford, George Kolbe, John Adams and myself fielding questions covering a wide area of numismatic literature.

This issue of *The Asylum* also brings us a new Editor, Charles Davis. Please note his address on the masthead and send letters, articles and any special requests relating to advertising, either classified or display, for publication. I know you all wish him the best with the assignment he is assuming, and that with the help of all the members of N.B.S., we can make our journal one in which we can all be proud. Please remember that this organization is concerned with the literature of numismatics, and other areas of interest to the bibliophile. Feel free to share with us your personal adventures with numismatic literature.

In addition to the N.B.S. General Meeting and the Round Table discussion, both of which will be held Thursday, August 15, please be certain to allow sufficient time to see Armand Champa's Exhibit of **Numismatic Americana** in the Exhibition Area. On display will be many of the rarest and finest American books, auction catalogues, periodicals, and ephemera ever presented publicly. The exhibit is greatly enhanced by a descriptive catalogue produced by George Kolbe.

THE SALE OF THE ADOLPH HESS LIBRARY

John Bergman

The Adolph Hess Company was established in Giessen, Germany in 1870. The next year, Hess moved his firm to Frankfurt/M, and, after relocating four times within the city, settled in 1885 at Westendstrasse 7. About 1880, Hess took in a partner, Frankfurt native, James Belmonte. In late 1893, Belmonte took over the company renaming it Adolph Hess Nachfolger [successor]. Hess died in 1912.

Cologne native Dr. Hermann Feith joined the firm as Belmonte's partner and ran the company after Belmonte's death in 1924. Dr Busso Peus and Herman Rosenberg (son of the Hannover and Frankfurt dealer Sally Rosenberg) joined the Company in 1929, and added to the list of great numismatists affiliated with the firm. By 1930



the combined talents of Peus and Rosenberg had elevated Adolph Hess Nach to the position of one of the world's leading numismatic firms.

The Nazi rise to power led to the split of the Adolph Hess Nach Company. While most of the coin houses in Germany were Jewish owned and run, Dr. Feith was fortunately farsighted enough to open a subsidiary in Lucerne Switzerland in 1930 with Herman Rosenberg in charge of that branch. This was a particularly well thought out move as it probably saved their lives and allowed them to tap the large collector base in Switzerland, which to that date had been dominated by the large Swiss firm, Ars Classica. In 1933 the Lucerne branch became a shareholder's company changing its name to Adolph Hess AG. In the pre WW II years, the firm sold a number of great collections including those of Trau and Haberlin. Sales in Lucerne were suspended from 1939 until after the end of the War. Beginning in 1950 the great Hess-Leu sales, which included the Brand, Hirsch and Gibbs Collections, established the preeminence of both firms on the auction scene. This era of joint sales ended with the death of Hermann Rosenberg in 1970. From 1971 Hess and Leu each conducted its sales independently. The Hess AG firm gradually left the business of ancient and medieval numismatics for other fields.

The Frankfurt branch of Adolph Hess Nach likewise prospered under the able partnership of Dr Busso Peus and Paul Rothenbacher. In 1938 they were forced to change the name of the firm to Dr Busso Peus who ran the Company alone after Rothenbacher's death during WW II. In 1967 Dr Peus retired and turned the firm over to Dieter Raab and Peter Schulten, with the firm being renamed Dr Busso Peus Nachfolger. Peter Schulten later left the firm which has been since managed by Raab.

The Adolph Hess library was purchased by a German collector from Adolph Hess AG, Lucerne for a price purported to be 500,000 SF. The library was subsequently consigned to and catalogued for sale by the firm of Busso Peus Nach with the sale being held April 29-30, 1991 at the Peus offices in Frankfurt. These offices were ideally suited for the examination of book lots as all but two walls of the Peus company library had been moved out making ample room for the shelving of the Hess library. Adequate tables and chairs were also available for comfortable viewing. Peus's hospitality extended to remaining open on Saturday and Sunday for lot examination.

The sole drawback to their facilities was that there was no single room large enough to accommodate all of the bidders. Peus's solution to this problem was probably the strangest aspect of the sale. Bidders were assigned seating (name tags were taped to the backs of the chairs) in one of three separate rooms. The first room, the largest with chairs for thirty, faced the auctioneer's table and was reserved for those who spoke German. The second room, which held twenty-one, was at the end of the central corridor in which the auctioneer's table was located and was reserved for those who spoke only English or Italian and a few who spoke German. The third room was adjacent to the second but its occupants, numbering six or eight, were able to look directly down the central corridor at the auctioneer. An employee, who served as a translator and bid relay person, sat at the doorway of the second room. Prior to the start of the sale, most of the bidders with whom I talked, expressed reservations about this system, not caring for inability of seeing the person against whom we were bidding.

As is the case before many successful sales, speculation concerning price and participation levels was rampant, as in the similar set of circumstances before the record breaking Kolbe sale of June 1981. The most interesting rumor was that an East German institution had received a loan from a West German bank in order to fill the holes in their library. Their bids were reportedly very strong and were to be executed by Peus. The book (bids received by the auction house before the sale) was definitely strong, but of course there was no way of knowing from whom the bids came. Very few lots went unsold, and a very small number sold at wholesale (resalable) levels. On average, lots brought high retail, especially when the overall condition of the books was taken into consideration. Being charitable, most of the books were less than fine. This had been the Hess working library, and most of the books had labels taped to their backs or to their jackets. In addition, many works were well worn from heavy use.

Typical of lots in poor condition that brought strong prices included:

- Lot 7159; *A Catalogue of Greek Coins in the British Museum*, 29 Volumes, original editions, a hodgepodge of different bindings, shaken and ugly @9,200DM (\$5,500).
- Lot 8475; Medina's *Las Monedas Coloniales de Chile*, 1919, a terrible copy with many leaves showing scotch tape repairs @ 1,840DM (\$1,100).
- Lot 8684; *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* to N°157 lacking 5 volumes, a dirty, thumbled and taped set @6,325DM (\$3,800).

Among the lots that sold reasonably were:

- Lot 7198; Forrer's *Weber Collection* @2,070DM (\$1,225).
- Lot 7295; Kraay & Hirmer *Greek Coins* @414DM (\$250).
- Lot 7439 *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Copenhagen*, lacking a few later volumes but a very attractive set much of which was bound in half vellum @9,200DM (\$5,520).

Among the lots that brought high prices were:

- Lot 7122 Babelon's *Traité des Monnaies Grecques et Romaines* @11,212DM (\$6,700);
- Lot 7243 Haberlin's *Aes Grave*, a fine copy @5,405DM (\$3,200).
- Lot 7274 Jameson Collection, a beautifully fresh set very tastefully bound in half red leather @6,235DM (\$3,800).
- Lot 7329 Mazzini's *Monete Imperiale Romane*, very fine but still more than double the usual price at @4,485DM (\$2,700).
- Lot 7567 Loon's *Histoire Metallique des XVII Provinces* 5 volumes, attractive, but double its value @8,625DM (\$5,200);
- Lot 8190 Hill's *A Corpus of Italian Medals of the Renaissance Before Cellini*, another in the long list of titles that doubled its value @4,888DM (\$2,900).
- Lot 8672 *Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Royal Numismatic Society*, Series 1 - Series 5 was the star of the periodicals @34,000DM (\$20,500).

The offering of auction catalogues was particularly strong in the German series with Cahn, Hamburger, Helbing, Hess and Hirsch sales bringing 5 to 10 times estimates. One catalogue lot, Kreisberg/Schulman *Golden Sale of the Century*, 3 Sales 1962-1963, deserves the title of "The Mother of All Mistakes." Estimated @20DM, it realized a price of 1,380DM (\$800)!!!

Even taking into account the fact that European auction houses underestimate values, the sale was certainly a tremendous success. The factors that cause bidders at auction to overpay are many. At this particular sale I believe it was not so much the usual impulsive or ego trip behavior but more a pre-planned determination by many of the bidders to obtain that needed reference at whatever cost. The fact that condition, when poor, had seemingly no negative effect on bidding was a further indication that the vast majority of the bidders were strictly collectors of information as opposed to bibliophiles or collectors of books.

The sale totaled 2,746 lots sold in four sessions over a period of two days. Both days began with about 50 registered bidders in attendance and were extremely long and exhausting, the first day running fourteen hours, the second day about thirteen. Perhaps the main factor responsible for the slow pace was the fact that the sale was called in German. While it takes only a second to say "Seventy three eighty-nine, it takes three times as long to say "sieben tausend drei hundert neunundachtzig."

From my standpoint, even though the trip was very tiring and the prices were too high to make the trip financially profitable, I value the experience and the new acquaintanceships very highly.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PRINTING MUSEUM

James Mosvick

As a collector of not just numismatic books but also of pre-1983 Hawaiian material, I have found two museums in the United States that are of great importance to all bibliophiles.

My favorite is The Museum of Printing History in Houston, Texas, which has been open since 1982. The museum's collection and exhibits of historical documents, books, fine art prints, newspapers, printing machines, and tools provide the visitor with an overview of the importance of printing as applied to the institution of government, education, art, religion, and communication during the past 500 years. The museum, which contains exhibit galleries, a restoration workshop, as well as a gift shop, is chartered by the state of Texas and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a public charity. The museum, located at 1324 West Clay Street, Houston, Texas 77019 [(713) 522-4652], is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 daily except holidays, and admission is free.

The second, The International Printing Museum in Buena Park, California is filled also with many printing artifacts and has the largest display of graphic communication in the world. Supported to benefit the printing industry, it is located at 8469 Kass Drive, Buena Park, CA 90621 [(714) 523 2080].

The rear endsheets of John Adams' *Numismatic Literature, Volume II* depict some 33 bidders at New Netherlands 60th Auction Sale, December 1968. To date we have been able to recognize about one third of these individuals. The editor would be pleased to receive readers' suggestions as to the identity of the remaining two thirds. The result, with a key, will be published in the next number of *The Asylum*. Spotted so far are:

Bob Batchelder
Walter Breen
Bill Donna
Gary Fitzgerald

Jon Hanson
Donald Partrick
Ralph Pfau
Richard Picker

Harvey Stack
Herb Tobias
Bill Wild

A TRIAL LIST OF QUARTERMAN PUBLICATIONS

Charles Davis

For the past 20 years, numismatic bibliophiles have had the luxury of quality reprints of titles that might otherwise be beyond their reach either through lack of availability or by restraint of budget. Readily known by their white dust jackets, these reprints by Quarterman Publications of Boston and Lawrence Massachusetts, cover some of the most esoteric areas of World as well as main stream American numismatics. While their strength lies in American State, early Federal, and Token coinage, the scope of this virtual library of titles is amazingly global.

The principal behind Quarterman Publications, Alfred D. Hoch, [pronounced Hoake, not Hock] needs no introduction to Colonial or Token and Medal specialists. As one of the three founders [with Phil Greco and Del Beaudreau] of *The Colonial Newsletter*, Hoch placed in position this most respected and now thirty year old Bible of the pre-Federal collectors. In the mid-1960's, he was editor of *The TAMS Journal* and publisher of many of the reprints under the auspices of that organization.

In his private publishing ventures, Hoch initially used the Ovolon imprint [seen on Gould on Counterstamps (1962), a reprint of Miller on Connecticut (1962), and Vlack's Early American Coins (1963)] before founding Quarterman in 1972. While the term "reprint" is generically applied to these works, we would prefer the term "edition," as most, if not all, contain new forwards, price guides, typographical or textual changes combined with superior plates that often surpass their originals in terms of research value and utility.

The following titles on American numismatics have been published since 1972. For each, we have noted today's average retail price for the Quarterman edition followed by an estimate of the selling price of a comparable original or originals if applicable. We will cover foreign titles in a subsequent issue.

Edgar Adams: PLATES OF LYMAN H. LOW'S HARD TIMES TOKENS; 1980, photochemically enhanced plates in some regards superior to the originals, introduction by Alfred Reed, Dunham's Easy Finding List, 1980 price list, spiral bound with white composition boards. \$25. [\$500]

John Adams: [editor] MONOGRAPHS ON VARIETIES OF UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS 1793-1794; 1976, facsimile reprints of 1869 and 1897 Crosby, 1869 and 1870 Maris, 1879 Frossard [selections only], 1893 and 1910 Frossard-Hays, 1926 Chapman, rarity and value guide by Loring. \$40 [\$10,000+]

Emmanuel Attinelli: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTION CATALOGUES; facsimile reprint of the 1875 "Numisgraphics" with foreword and rarity guide by John Adams. \$40 [\$750]

C. Wyllys Betts: AMERICAN COLONIAL HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY CONTEMPORARY MEDALS; 1972 facsimile reprint of the 1894 original with added foreword by Leonard Finn, price guide and photographic illustrations taken from Finn's personal collection. \$50 [\$75]

Sylvester Crosby: THE EARLY COINS OF AMERICA; 1974 and 1983; facsimile reprint of the 1875 original and Maris plate with foreword by Eric Newman (greatly expanded in 1983) plus copies of the original introduction, wrappers, notices, reviews, etc. \$40 [\$500]

Dalton & Hamer THE PROVINCIAL TOKEN COINAGE OF THE 18TH CENTURY; 1977, facsimile reprint of the 1910-1918 serially issued original. [The 1967 printing in red cloth, erroneously attributed to Seaby, was also a creation of Al Hoch.] \$125 [\$750]

George and Melvin Fuld: PATRIOTIC CIVIL WAR TOKENS; 1981, facsimile reprint of the 1965 Whitman edition in black flex covers. \$7 [\$7]

George & Melvin Fuld: TOKEN COLLECTOR'S PAGES; 1972, collected facsimile reprint, Volume 3 in *Gleanings from the Numismatist*. \$35 [-]

George and Melvin Fuld: U.S. CIVIL WAR STORE CARDS; 1975, *Second Edition*, a revision (and still the latest) of the 1972 First Edition published by The Civil War Token Society. \$50 [-]

E. A. King: MASONIC CHAPTER PENNIES; 1972 and 1982, facsimile reprint of the 1928 edition. \$20 [\$175]

Warren Lapp & Herbert Silberman [editors]: UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS 1793-1857; 1975, collected facsimile reprint, Volume 7 in *Gleanings from the Numismatist*, forewords by each editor. \$35 [-]

Denis Loring [editor] MONOGRAPHS ON VARIETIES OF UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS 1795-1803; 1976, facsimile reprints of 1925 Newcomb, 1931 Clapp, and 1947 Clapp-Newcomb, forward by Loring, appendices of new varieties and price/rarity guide. \$35 [\$1,200]

Edward Maris: THE COINS OF NEW JERSEY; 1974, full size facsimile reprint of the 1881 original, superb reproduction of the famous plate, foreword by Breen, price guide. \$100 [\$1,000]

Howard R. Newcomb UNITED STATES COPPER CENTS 1816-1857; 1985, facsimile reprint of the 1944 original with foreword and new variety data by John Wright. \$35 [\$75]

Sydney Noe: THE SILVER COINAGE OF MASSACHUSETTS; 1973, facsimile reprints of the three Noe Monographs plus extracts from Newman's "Good Samaritan Shilling" published by the A.N.S. 1943-1959. Also included are a foreword and a price guide by Newman and Breen. \$75 [\$125]

William H. Sheldon PENNY WHIMSY; 1976 and 1981, facsimile reprint with textual changes made by the author, none of which appears in any of the other editions. The plates were prepared from the original photographs [rather than the printed versions in earlier editions], and are superior to all others including those in the 1958 Harper first edition. \$100 [\$75]

David Schenkman: A SURVEY OF AMERICAN TRADE TOKENS; 1975, collected facsimile reprint, Volume 6 in *Gleanings from the Numismatist*.

Frank Stewart: HISTORY OF THE FIRST UNITED STATES MINT; 1974, facsimile reprint of the 1924 original. \$30 [\$75]

Malcolm Storer: NUMISMATICS IN MASSACHUSETTS; 1982, facsimile reprint of the 1923 original that appeared in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* with a new forward by Malcolm Freiberg (of MHS). \$30 [\$65]

Edmund B. Sullivan: AMERICAN POLITICAL BADGES AND MEDALETTS; 1981, a revision of the 1959 work by J. Doyle DeWitt. \$50 [-]

Raphael Thian: REGISTER OF THE CONFEDERATE DEBT; 1972, facsimile reprint of the 1880 original [of which five original copies are known], with an excellent forward by Douglas Ball. \$35 [7,000+?]

D. C. Valentine: THE UNITED STATES HALF DIMES; 1975, facsimile reprints of the 1931 work published by the A.N.S., and of the 1883 Newlin, added material by Will Neil, David Davis, Walter Breen, and Kamal Ahwash. \$35 [1,000]

David Wismer: THE OBSOLETE BANK NOTES OF NEW ENGLAND; 1972, collected facsimile reprint, Volume 2 in *Gleanings from the Numismatist*. \$25 [-]

Benjamin P. Wright: AMERICAN BUSINESS TOKENS; 1972, collected facsimile reprint, Volume 1 in *Gleanings from the Numismatist*. \$30 [75]

THE MOST IMPORTANT A.N.A. AUCTIONS OF EACH DECADE

P. Scott Rubin

As we now celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the American Numismatic Association, it is appropriate to review the auction sales that were sanctioned by, and that have occurred in conjunction with, the Annual Conventions of that organization. I have chosen my favorite A.N.A. Auction Sale of each decade and have followed each with pertinent information about that selection. The content of the sales, rather than the cataloguing style, was the driving force for picking one sale over another. In some decades the choice was difficult with great competition; in others there was no real choice at all.

Decade: 1900-1909: Only two sales (1907 and 1908) were held during this period. The more comprehensive 1908 Henry Chapman Sale is my choice over the 1907 Ben Green Sale although neither was a particularly great sale.

1908: Cataloger-Auction House: Henry Chapman, 1348 Pine St, Philadelphia

Date: September 30

Location: 1112 Walnut St, Philadelphia

Number of lots: 747

Consignors Named: None

Auctioneer: Davis & Harvey, Auctioneers

Special Facts: This was only the second sale conducted in conjunction with an A.N.A. Convention, and the first to indicate so on its cover. It was also Henry Chapman's first of four A.N.A. sales with those of 1919, 1924 and 1925 to follow. Lots included: War Medals and Decorations, Ancient, Foreign, United States regular coinage, Patterns, Tokens, and Pioneer Gold.

U.S. Highlights: 1881, 1882 Proof Sets complete in Gold, Silver, Nickel and Copper; 1796 15 Stars, 1797 Half Dollars; 1796 Quarter; 1796 Dimes; 1794, 1805 Half Dimes; 1794 Starred Reverse Cent; 1856 Flying Eagle Cent; Pattern of 1877 Fifty Dollar Gold (Barber design); 1879 Stella.

Decade: 1910-1919: During this period four A.N.A. sales, 1910, 1911, 1917 and 1919 were held with the first three not holding up to the content of the latter.

1919: Cataloger-Auction House: Henry Chapman, 333-35 S 16th St, Philadelphia

Date: October 4 [7:30 P.M.]

Location: No 333 and 335 So 16th St, Philadelphia

Number of Lots: 500

Consignors Named: None

Auctioneer: Henry Chapman

Special Facts: This was the second Henry Chapman A.N.A. sale, and unlike that of 1908, this fact does not appear in the catalog. Again the sale included a little of everything: Foreign, Ancient, United States regular coinage, Patterns, and Pioneer Gold.

U.S. Highlights: 1792 Half Disme; 1797 15 Star Small Eagle Half Eagle; 1879 Stella; 1796 16 Star, 1797 Half Dollars; 1796 w/Pole Half Cent.

Decade: 1920-1929: My selection for this decade is the only sale chosen not catalogued by a well known firm. In this case, a committee headed by F.C.C. Boyd, better known as a collector (see Numismatic Gallery's 1945-46 "World's Greatest Collection") rather than as a dealer, conducted the sale. This committee included Moritz Wormser, A.N.A. President and later founder of New Netherlands Coin Company, as well as A.N.S. President Edward Newell.

1922: Cataloger-Auction House: F.C.C. Boyd, Chairman, Arrangement Committee, with E.T. Newell and Moritz Wormser, 45 W 18th St, New York

Date: August 31, 1922

Location: The American Fine Arts Society Building

Number of Lots: 801

Consignors Named: None

Auctioneer: Daniel R. Kennedy

Special Facts: The A.N.A. Co-operative Sale, and the second A.N.A. auction called by Kennedy. The contents included Foreign, Ancient, United States regular coinage, Patterns, Medals, Tokens, Paper Money and Pioneer Gold.

U.S. Highlights: 1875 Gold Dollar; 1796 Dime; 1793 Half Cents; 1861 Parsons & Co. Five Dollar Gold; 1854-D, 1873 Three Dollar Gold; 1796, 1803 Eagles; 1887 Proof Double Eagle.

Decade: 1930-1939: This decade was the first with more than five sales to chose from, none of which provided much competition, and the first for which the cataloger (Stack's) is still in business today.

1939: Cataloger-Auction House: Stack's, 32 West 46th St, New York

Date: October 4, 1939 [1:45 P.M.]

Location: Hotel Pennsylvania, 7th Ave & 33rd St, New York

Number of Lots: 726

Consignors Named: David Proskey Estate

Auctioneer: O. Rundle Gilbert

Special Facts: This, the first of four Stacks A.N.A. sales, included Foreign, Ancient, United States coinage, Patterns, Currency and Pioneer Gold.

U.S. Highlights: 1858, 1895 Silver Dollars; 1796 Dime; 1796 w/pole Half Cent; 1797, 1799, 1800, 1801 Eagles; 1795 Small Eagle, 1799 Large Eagle, 1799 Half Eagles; 1806/4 Quarter Eagle; 1849 Ormsby Eagle; 1855 \$50 Wass Molitor Slug, Ephraim Brasher counterstamped gold coins (1745 Half Jo of Brazil, 1774 Shield Guinea of George I of England and 1734 Quarter Jo of Portugal).

Decade: 1940-1949: The 1940's provided us with the first real competition with 1947 selected over 1946 (a close second, and cataloged by the same firm). Eight sales were held, with only the War years of 1943 and 1945 not included.

1947: Cataloger-Auction House: Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff & Abner Kreisberg), 42 East 50th St, New York

Date: August 26 [7:30 P.M.] & August 27 [2:00 P.M.]

Location: 17th Floor Assembly Room, Statler Hotel, Buffalo

Number of Lots: 1754

Consignors Named: C. David Pierce, Robert R. Prann, L. Barnard, Dr. H. J. Law, V. Bortiglio, Sheraton Coin Collection (important large cents), Mrs. Dorothy White and Mrs. Mabel R. Sandford [James Lawson Collection]

Auctioneer: Abe Kosoff

Special Facts: This sale, issued in two formats (in the convention program and as a separate catalog) was Numismatic Gallery's third A.N.A. Sale, and was considered their 39th, 40th, and 41st auction sales with each session being assigned its own number in their series. The first two sessions of the auction were public (914 lots) with the third being mail bid only closing on August 27 (840 lots). The contents of the sale included Ancient, Foreign, United States Coinage, Currency and Pioneer Gold.

U.S. Highlights: Quarter Eagles of 1796 (No Stars), 1798, 1802/1, 1804, 1807, 1808, 1824/1, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834 w/Motto; Half Eagles of 1795 (Small Eagle), 1796/5, 1798 (Large Eagle), 1799, 1821, 1823, 1825/1, 1826, 1830 Small 5D, 1831, 1833, 1834 (Cross 4 w/Motto), 1834 (Plain

4 w/Motto); Eagles of 1795, 1796, 1797 (Small Eagle), 1797 (Large Eagle), 1798/7 (Four Stars Facing), 1799, 1800, 1801, 1803, 1804; 1860 Clark Gruber Twenty Dollar Gold; 1855 Wass Molitor & Co Fifty Dollar Slug; 1858, 1895 Silver Dollar; Sommer Island Shilling, Sixpence, Threepence, Twopence; N.E. Shilling, Sixpence; 1854-D, 1873 and 1877 Three Dollar Gold; 1879-O, 1883 Proof, 1884 Proof, 1887 Proof, 1932 Double Eagles; 1794 Starred Reverse, 1799/8, 1799 Cents; 1823 Quarters; 1794 Half Dimes.

Decade: 1950-1959: This was the first decade with a sale occurring each year, and includes my choice for best A.N.A. sale of all time with four firms teaming up to accomplish this in 1952. This sale also included a most important offering of numismatic literature

1952: Catalogers-Auction Houses: Numismatic Fine Arts [Edward Gans], 101 West 56th St; Hans M.F. Schulman, 545 Fifth Ave; Henry Grunthal, 200 Haven Ave; New Netherlands Coin Co, [Charles M. Wormser and John J. Ford, Jr.], 580 Fifth Ave, all New York City

Date: August 16 [1:30 P.M.], August 18 [1:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.], August 19 [1:30 P.M.], August 21 [1:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.]

Location: "Skytop" Room, Hotel Statler, New York

Number of Lots: 4780

Consignors Named: Dr R.H. Wilson, Don Searle, Homer K. Downing, H.D. Gibbs, Ralph J. Lathrop, John Zug, Ovazza Collection, Edward Nelson, O.K. Rumbel, E.A. Rice, Wayte Raymond, and The Johnson Collection.

Auctioneer: Donald D'Amato

Special Facts: This sale contained the largest number of lots of any A.N.A. auction and was the first to have four numismatic firms combine forces. This sale, which has stood the test of time as one of the most memorable of any, included Ancient, Foreign, and United States Coinage, Currency, Tokens, Medals, Patterns, Pioneer Gold and Numismatic Literature.

U.S. Highlights: 1796, 1859 Obv-1859 Rev-1860 Dimes; 1796 Quarter; 1833, 1848 "Cal" Quarter Eagle; 1796/5 Half Eagle; 1858, 1895 Silver Dollar; 1793 Half Cent; 1794 Starred Reverse, 1795 Reeded Edge [2], 1795 Jefferson Head, 1799/8, 1799, 1848 Small Date cents; Willow Tree Shilling and Sixpence; 1776 Brass Continental Currency Dollar; 1785 "America" Confederatio Cent.

Decade: 1960-1969: My choice for this decade had, by a small margin, more variety and rarities than others. It was also a landmark sale for numismatic errors, a subject for which the cataloguer, Michael Kolman, was well known.

1964: Cataloger-Auction House: Federal Brand Enterprises, Inc. [Michael R. Kolman], 419-425 High Avenue, Cleveland

Date: August 18 [7:30 P.M.], August 19 [1:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.], August 20 [1:30 P.M.], August 21 [7:30 P.M.]

Location: Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland

Number of Lots: 3849

Consignors Named: Dr. Joseph S. Kopas and Judge Joseph F. Sawicki
Auctioneer: Michael R. Kolman

Special Facts: This was Kolman's second A.N.A. sale, he having conducted the 1957 auction in Philadelphia. The first 3331 lots were offered in five public auction sessions with the last 519 lots offered by mail bid only. The contents of this sale included Foreign, Canadian, United States Coinage, Currency, Patterns, Error Coinage, Pioneer Gold and Colonial.

U.S. Highlights: 1793 Half Cent; 1799/8, 1799 Cents; 1860 Obv-1859 Rev-1860 Half Dime; 1856 Flying Eagle Cent; 1796 Dime; 1855-D Gold Dollar; 1805, 1829 Quarter Eagles; 1796, 1901-S Quarters; 1877 Three Dollar Gold; 1879 Flowing Hair Stella; 1796/5, 1797/5, 1829 Large Planchet, 1861-D Half Eagles; 1799, 1877 Eagles; 1895 Silver Dollar; 1861-S Paquet, 1929 Double Eagles; 1855 Wass Molitor Fifty Dollar Slug.

Decade: 1970-1979: The winner this year was the last of four A.N.A. sales conducted by Stack's, and is my favorite sale, containing more important U.S. coinage than 1952, which may rank higher overall.

1976: Catalogers-Auction House: Stack's [Harvey G. Stack, Benjamin Stack and Norman Stack] 123 West 57th Street, New York

Date: August 24 [7:00 P.M.], August 25 [7:00 P.M.], August 26 [10:30 A.M.], August 27 [7:00 P.M.], and August 28 [10:30 A.M.]

Location: Royal Ballroom, Americana Hotel, 7th Ave & 52nd St, New York

Number of Lots: 4178

Consignors Named: Massachusetts Historical Society, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Pierce Family.

Auctioneers: Benjamin Stack and Harvey Stack

Special Facts: The content included fine groupings of Foreign, Ancient, United State Coinage, Patterns and Currency.

U.S. Highlights: Sommer Islands Sixpence; Mark Newby Farthing in Gold; N.J. Immunis Columbia; 1792 Copper Disme, Half Disme; 1793, 1796 w/ and w/o Pole Half Cents; 1799, 1829 Bronze Proof Cents; 1856 Flying Eagle Cent; 1794, 1796/5, 1802, 1805, 1859 Obv-1859 Rev-1860, 1860 Obv-1859 Rev-1860 Half Dimes; Proof Sets 1858-1962 complete lacking Gold; 1796, 1798/7 13 Star Reverse, 1871-CC, 1873-CC w/arrows Dimes; 1796, 1823/2, 1827 original, 1873-CC w/arrows Quarters; 1796 15 and 16 Star, 1797, 1878-S Half Dollars; 1851 Original, 1852 Restrike, 1858 Silver Dollars; 1860-D, 1870-S Gold Dollars; 1797, 1798, 1802/1, 1804 14 Star Reverse, 1805, 1808, 1821, 1830, 1831, 1841, 1848, 1848 "Cal," 1862/1, 1875 Quarter Eagles; 1873 (Closed 3), 1876, 1877, 1881 Three Dollar Gold; 1879, 1880 Stellas (both types, both years); 1795 Large Eagle, 1798 13 Star Reverse, 1799, 1815, 1819, 1820 (Sq Base 2), 1821, 1823, 1824, 1825/1, 1826, 1827, 1828/7, 1829 Large Flan, 1833, 1834 (Plain 4 w/Motto), 1929 Half Eagles; 1795, 1796, 1797 (Small Eagle), 1797 (Large Eagle), 1798/7 (Four Stars Facing), 1799, 1800, 1801, 1803, 1804, 1879-O, 1883-O, 1907 (Wire Rim, Periods), 1879-O, 1881, 1886, 1920-S, 1929 Double Eagles.

Decade: 1980-1989: While there was no standout in this decade, there were a number of sales with almost equal accomplishments. The winner is unique, in that I selected it more for the importance of one series (Patterns) rather than for general excellence. (While the 1958 sale was of near equal importance for patterns, it was in the decade with the 1952 sale.)

1981: Catalogers-Auction House: Bowers & Ruddy Galleries [Q. David Bowers] with named catalogers including Bowers, Joe Parsons, Dr. George Fuld, Robert van Bebber and Jeff Spier; 6922 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles

Date: July 28 [7:00 P.M.], July 29 [7:00 P.M.], July 30 [1:00 P.M.], July 31 [7:00 P.M.], and August 1 [1:00 P.M.]

Location: Versailles Ballroom, New Orleans Hilton & Tower, Poydras at the Mississippi River, New Orleans

Number of Lots: 3502

Consignors Named: William R. Sieck and Vine David Lord

Auctioneer: George Bennett

Special Facts: This was the second A.N.A. auction handled by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries. Since then, the successor firm Bowers and Merena has held two more with their third to be this year's Centennial sale. In addition to Patterns, the sale included Foreign, Ancient, United States Coinage, Errors, Medals and Currency.

U.S. Highlights: The Highlights of the U.S. coinage were predominately Patterns: 1792 Birch Cent, 1868 Copper Large Cent, 1860 Obv-1859 Rev-1860 Half Dime, complete set of Silver and Gold 1872 Amazonian issues, 22 different 1877 Pattern Half Dollars, a set of 1882 Silver Shield Earring Patterns, 1877 Copper Fifty Dollar Pattern, a set of Electro-Trials of James Earle and Laura Gardin Fraser, 1875 Gold Half Eagle Pattern (Judd 1438), 1868 Gold Eagle Pattern (Judd-661) 1874 Gold Bickford Eagle Pattern (Judd-1373), and MCMVII Gold Double Eagle Pattern (Judd 1776). Regular issues and errors included: 1943 copper and 1944 zinc-coated steel cents; 1805 Half Dime; 1873-CC w/Arrows, 1894-S Dimes; 1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece; 1798, 1808, 1830, 1848 "CAL" and 1862/1 Quarter Eagles; 1795 Half Eagle; 1795 and 1800 Eagles; 1796 Quarter; 1875 Gold Dollar; 1797 Half Dollar; 1793 and 1796 w/Pole Half Cents; 1795 Jefferson Head, 1799 Large Cents; 1856 Flying Eagle Cent, 1918/7-D Nickel.

The following list of known A.N.A. auction sales was prepared using my own sources in addition to those of Martin Gengerke (*American Numismatic Auctions*), 1990, and of John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature, Volume II, Twentieth Century Auction Catalogs*, 1990. The present list differs from Adams, who lists two sales that I do not. While his October 5, 1918 S. H. Chapman sale was to have been an A.N.A. affair, the convention was canceled because of a city wide flu epidemic. It is unclear if the sale took place on schedule (in violation of law prohibiting public gatherings) or at a later date. This is a close call but I do not think it should be included in our list.

The second, catalogued by W. G. Rayson in 1943, appears to be a sale held for a Chicago Coin Club meeting during the Chicago A.N.A. convention. While A.N.A. members were invited, this should not constitute an A.N.A. sale.

The difference with the Gengerke list stems from my addition of the 1932 John Kean sale, also listed by Adams who quote statements in the *Numismatist*. No catalogues are known to exist for this and the 1931 sales.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1907 Ben Green (9/3) | 1959 Leo A. Young (8/26) |
| 1908 Henry Chapman (9/30) | 1960 Conn & Whiteneck (8/24) |
| 1910 Daniel R. Kennedy (9/9) | 1961 James Kelly (8/16) |
| 1911 Ben Green (8/30) | 1962 James Kelly (8/15) |
| 1917 Wayte Raymond (8/27) | 1963 Al C. Overton (8/7) |
| 1919 Henry Chapman (10/4) | 1964 Federal Brand (8/18) |
| 1922 F.C.C. Boyd (8/31) | 1965 Al C. Overton (8/25) |
| 1924 Henry Chapman (8/26) | 1966 Abe Kosoff & Numismatic Enterprises (8/16) |
| 1925 Henry Chapman (8/26) | 1967 Paramount (8/8) |
| 1928 Paul Lange (8/21) | 1968 Abe Kosoff & Numismatic Enterprises (8/20) |
| 1929 M.H. Bolender (8/27) | 1969 Paramount (8/12) |
| 1930 Paul Lange (8/25) | 1970 RARCOA (8/18) |
| 1931 William Sunday (9/1) | 1971 Stack's (8/10) |
| 1932 John Kean (8/24) | 1972 Paramount (8/15) |
| 1933 Koin-X-Change (8/29) | 1973 Jess Peters (8/23) |
| 1934 Charles J. Molnar (8/20) | 1974 Paramount (8/13) |
| 1935 William A. Gaede (8/26) | 1975 Superior (8/19) |
| 1936 Arthur White (8/24) | 1976 Stack's (8/24) |
| 1937 Charles Kohen (8/23) | 1977 Kagin's (8/23) |
| 1938 J.M. Henderson (8/16) | 1978 Bowers & Ruddy (8/21) |
| 1939 Stack's (10/4) | 1979 N.E.R.C.G. & Galerie Des Monnaies (7/29) |
| 1940 Stack's (8/27) | 1980 Steve Ivy (8/18) |
| 1941 Ira Reed (8/19) | 1981 Bowers & Ruddy (7/28) |
| 1942 Numismatic Gallery (8/25) | 1982 Steve Ivy (8/17) |
| 1944 Clifford Lindall (8/26) | 1983 Kagin's (8/16) |
| 1946 Numismatic Gallery (8/20) | 1984 Kurt R. Krueger (7/28) |
| 1947 Numismatic Gallery (8/26) | 1985 Heritage (8/20) |
| 1948 Frank Katen (8/23) | 1986 Kagin's (8/6) |
| 1949 Numismatic Gallery (8/22) | 1987 Bowers & Merena (8/26) |
| 1950 James Kelly (8/26) | 1988 Heritage (7/20) |
| 1951 James Kelly (8/25) | 1989 Bowers & Merena (8/9) |
| 1952 New Netherlands et al (8/16) | 1990 Heritage (8/22) |
| 1953 Numismatic Gallery (8/22) | 1991 Bowers & Merena (8/14) |
| 1954 Federal Coin (8/17) | 1991 Numismatic Fine Arts (8/14) |
| 1955 Bebee's (8/24) | |
| 1956 James Kelly (8/22) | |
| 1957 Federal Coin (8/21) | |
| 1958 Abe Kosoff (8/13) | |

In closing, I feel it only right to mention the two worst catalogs of all time. Here presentation, rather than content, determines the low ranking.

1973: **Jess Peters, Inc:** The following descriptions of the following notable rarities are taken verbatim, with spacing and abbreviations as printed.

Lot 535: "50 CENTS 1796 Sixteen Stars O-102 R-6 F mod hdlg, pitted, mod rim bumps, cldn PLATE" [the coin realized \$3,300.00]

Lot 821: "\$2½ 1841 the "KEY" to the \$2.50 Gold Series a PROOF striking which now has many lt to mod nks & scs still exceedingly RARE with only 7 specimens known a specimen in the Shufford Sale in 1968 brought \$18,000.00, in the RARITY market of today this coin could easily bring in excess of \$50,000.00 PLATE" [\$26,000.00].

Lot 999: "\$10 (1849) "TEN D." in center with "MINERS BANK above and "SAN FRANCISCO" below/"CALIFORNIA above Eagle clutching Olive Branch and Three Arrows CHOICE XF+ lt to mod hdlg, mod edge flaw on obv due to the EXTREME RARITY and top condition of this specimen we believe it is well worth and will bring in excess of \$25,000 PLATE (ex K.V. PAINTER collection)" [\$4,500]

Lot 877 "\$5 1825/21 XF+ lt hdlg, cldn VERY RARE & seldom offered PLATE" [\$4,250.00]

1984: **Kurt Krueger, Inc:** The description of the lots, with as little numismatic terminology as possible, were as cute as the cataloguer could manage.

Lot 537: "Virginia Half Penny. 1773 MS-63/60. Even the fact that some Philistine cleaned this coin, it has eye-popping detail."

Lot 538: "Virginia Half Penny. 1773 MS-65! A beauty drenched in mint lustre."

Lot 550 "1811 F-12. C-1. R-4. It's not a hummer, but it does boast a pedigree of being one of the rare late die states."

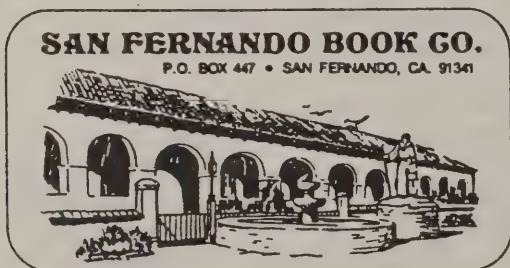
Lot 601 "1856 Upright 5 MS-63. A bright peach bloom on this specimen which is just a tick away from choice. Even Visine couldn't get the red out of this beauty."

According to John Pittman, turn of the century photography was often performed with the coins immersed in water. He recalled duplicating this process with William Clark, Assistant Curator of the A.N.S. by placing coins in a shallow pan just topped off with water. The coins were then shot outdoors in natural sunlight on Audubon Terrace with an old box camera. The result produced an evenness of texture and avoided glare and shadows. This method is not, however, recommended for photographing books.

FIRE DESTROYS MILLER PRINT SHOP

James Mosvick

The Miller Print Shop of Lawrence Kansas was recently destroyed by fire. The plant, famous for the production of numismatic, philatelic, and other hobby productions, was owned and operated for more than 50 years by Harlan W. Miller until his retirement in 1988. Miller, who died in 1989, received many honors over the years from stamp and coin collectors as well as dealer organizations. The fire consumed antique presses and type as well as historic back issues of numismatic and philatelic publications.



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SO HOW MUCH DID PRICED CATALOGUES COST, ANYWAY?

Wayne Homren

As part of my research into the history of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society, I have discovered something that may be of interest to collectors of nineteenth century American numismatic auction catalogues. The following are excerpts from the society's minutes:

January 9, 1880 ... the Secretary was directed to secure bids for furnishing the Society with priced catalogues of all New York coin sales from January 1 through July 1, 1880.

January 16, 1880 ... the Secretary reported that he had received the following bids for furnishing the Society with priced catalogues, viz.

Jno. W. Haseltine	50 cents per 1000 lots
S.H.& H. Chapman	8 cents per 100 lots
S.K. Harzfeld	1 days sale 40 cents
	2 days sale 75 cents
	3+4 days sale \$1.00
	5 and more days sale \$1.50

On motion Mr Haseltine was directed to furnish catalogues til 7/1/1880.

June 25, 1880 On motion it was resolved to renew if possible our contact with Mr Haseltine to furnish the Society with priced catalogues for another six mos.

July 16, 1880 The Secretary read a letter from Mr Jno. W. Haseltine in which Mr Haseltine agreed to furnish the Society with priced catalogues (until Jan 1st, 1881) at 50 cents per 1000 lots.

[This cottage industry of catalogue pricing noted by Mr Homren seems to have flourished during the 1870's and 1880's and raises an interesting question for purists. Should a bibliophile assembling a set of priced catalogues view third party pricing as less desirable than its in-house counterpart. It also helps explain the myriad of ink colors seen, sometimes on the same sale, and highlights the danger in assuming that because red ink, for instance, was not used, the pricing is not original or contemporary. We note that H.G. Sampson, for one, generally priced catalogues of other dealers for his clients using purple ink, a color occasionally used by Elliot Woodward for his work. Certainly an in-depth study of this phenomenon would be welcome reading in these pages - ed]

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

Joel J. Orosz

*Old Theodore Venn
Said, "I am going to dine with some men.
If anybody rings
Say I'm writing market maker things."*

With apologies to E. Clerihew Bentley, and also to the entire NBS membership for violating the pledge made in the Spring, 1990 issue of *The Asylum* never to profane these pages again, I take pen fearlessly in hand once more to write about numismatic investment literature. In the last number of 1989, I occupied this column with the story of Dr. Robert Bilinski, who wrote the 1957 text, *A Guide to Coin Investment*, that helped to start the speculative revolution in numismatics. In that column, I all but said that Bilinski's book was the first published on coin investment. Not so, said fellow NBS'er Dave Bowers: "examine the April, 1921 issue of *The Numismatist*." Sure enough, the following review appeared:

We have received from the author, Theo J. Venn of Chicago, Illinois, a copy of this recent work, *United States Coins with a Good Numismatic Future* ... The author takes up each denomination ... and points out which of the dates or varieties in each series is likely to enhance in value among collectors.

It sure sounded like Venn had the drop on Bilinski by a good third of a century. Wanting to examine the actual book, I turned to a man who certifiably is the first major numismatic bibliopole, Frank Katzen. The NBS's Honorary Life Member #3 responded that Venn's *United States Coins* ... has had only two auction appearances of which he was aware. [*actually we note four since 1985, viz Kolbe Sales 20, 21, 26, and 36 -ed*]. Happy fortune caused the third to be in Charles Davis' Mail Bid Sale 21, and your intrepid columnist emerged the new owner.

It seems that Theodore J. Venn had authored a series of monographs that used auction results to give a realistic picture of coin values for the collector. These books, one each for Half Cents, Large Cents, Two Cent Pieces and Three Dollar Gold, definitely served a purpose in the years before Wayne Raymond's *Standard Catalogue* made its appearance. *United States Coins...*, however, was definitely a departure. As the book's subtitle plainly said, here was "A guide for those who desire to form collections not only as an interesting and instructive study and pastime, but also with a view to potential profits."

The reader quickly becomes impressed with Venn's honesty and common sense. Disdaining "forecasts of the future", which he calls "futile," Venn depends

on a simple formula to predict which pieces will appreciate in value. Rare coins in excellent states of preservation will consistently increase in value. Commoner pieces will appreciate less, and low grade examples least of all. If this seems like the most glaring of all obvious principles, it would be well to remind ourselves of the hordes of speculators who were paupered in the late crash because they flouted this advice.

Venn did not strike out into completely unexplored territory; Wayne Raymond had discussed numismatic investment in a print ad in 1912 (*The Asylum*, Spring, 1990, page 13). Certainly the ideas Venn advanced in *United States Coins...* did not disappear without a trace. After all, the great Commemorative crash of 1936 had a lot to do with misbegotten schemes for investments in coins. True enough, but also undeniable, is the fact that *United States Coins...* was little noticed at the time, and even less remembered today. After Bilinski wrote his book in 1957, nearly a dozen other authors chimed in over the next five years. No one followed Venn's lead except for Venn. In the January, 1930 number of *The Numismatist*, for example, there appeared "Rarity of Some of Our Early Silver Coins" which discussed the investment potential of these pieces (I am indebted to Dave Bowers' monumental *A.N.A. Centennial History* for this information). The question becomes: "Why did Venn fail to launch the investment revolution in 1921?"

There are a number of possible answers. America had only recently emerged from a brief but nasty recession, and the big bull market of the mid and late 1920's was still years in the future. Although it was growing, the fraternity of coin collectors was still relatively small with limits on demand for coins. (By the late 1950's the critical mass of collectors needed for a speculative market was in place). Finally there were attitudinal impediments. The mind set of most hobbyists in 1921 was still squarely that of the collector, not the speculator.

Since I began by bowdlerizing a poem, let me close that way as well, with apologies this time to John Greenleaf Whittier:

*Who started the torrents
from investor's pens?
T'was Dr. Bilinski,
But it might have been Venn!*

Your columnist would like to compare certain pages from his copy of *United States Coins ...* to those from any copy belonging to any member of the NBS. These pages are: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 32. Please send photocopies to me at the address given on page 3. Thank you very much for your help.

THE MUSEUM OF BOOKBINDING

Michael J. Sullivan

Bath, England, has been revered by travellers and conquerors since the Romans discovered the city's natural hot springs c50 AD. The thermal waters bubbling to the surface at a constant temperature of 116° F (500,000 gallons per day) are considered by many to be a helpful treatment for rheumatism, arthritis, and gout. The city is adorned with many masterpieces including the Great Bath, Georgian architecture of John Wood, the Abbey Church, and Queen Square. Bath became a fashionable spa resort for the genteel English including Thomas Gainsborough, Lord Nelson, Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, and Jane Austin. Amid this historic English city is the Bookbinding Museum.

With the flood of English elite travelling to Bath in the 18th and 19th centuries, the city supported a good selection of bookshops. Until the invention of cloth binding in the 19th century, books were frequently sold in paper wrappers. The owner took his new acquisition to a local bookbinder to dress it in a style of his choice. Demand for books and bookbinding in Bath led to the development of the city's well known binderies. Three local 19th century artisans, Robert Riviere, Cederic Chivers, and George Bayntun, provided the framework of which the Bookbinding Museum was founded in 1977.

Robert Riviere was a bookseller, who later expanded into bookbinding, and is known for the restoration and binding of the original Domesday Book in 1870. His other works included a large portion of the existing Shakespeare folios and many of the prayer books used by monarchs at their coronations.

Cederic Chivers was born in 1853 and worked in his father's bindery until he established his own business after being inspired by the Paris exhibition of 1878. He is famous for his vellucent binding, a vellum material processed to give the image of a translucent, reflective metal.

George Bayntun established his book business in 1894. His skills included binding books with precious stones, the binding of miniatures, the use of illuminated text, inlaid covers, and fore-edge paintings. Mr Bayntun's family continues to operate his bookstore and bindery today.

Together, Riviere, Chivers, and Bayntun have left a remarkable heritage of bookbinding, tools, and techniques. The museum's book exhibit includes a breathtaking array of bindings in vellum, parchment, leather, and vellucent. Included are numerous inlaid books, miniatures, and artistically tooled bindings as well as the works of Mr. Riviere, which were shown at the Leipzig Exhibition of 1914. Other binding techniques exhibited include fore-edge paintings, gilding, gaufered and marbled edges. The quality and variety of the bindings as an art is magnificent.

Amid the books are displays illustrating the staining and tooling of calf and the design and preparation of endpapers, bookplates, and bindery tools. The rear of the museum is a reconstruction of George Bayntun's original shop of 1894 showing much of the original equipment used at the time.

Bath, a city of 85,000 located 175 miles west of London, is easily accessible from that city via British Rail. The writer encourages you to visit Bath, tour the city via bus, stop at the Great Bath and Abbey Church, and visit the city's hidden treasure, The Museum of Bookbinding on Manvers Street, open Monday through Friday.

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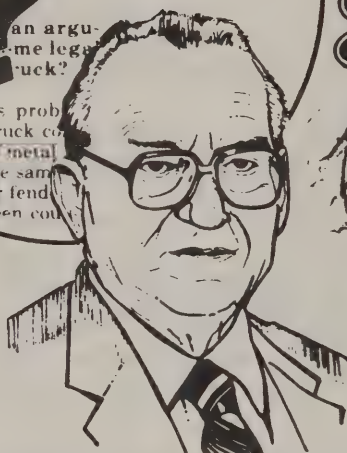
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

P. Scott Rubin

It was great seeing so many members of our Society at the A.N.A. Convention and to meet in person those whom I had only known by name. I know I had a good time at the convention and hope that many of you will join us next year in Orlando. In the mean time, to fill the meeting gap from August to August, our Board of Governors has voted to establish regional chairpersons to organize N.B.S. educational gatherings around the country. If you would like to represent your region of the country, please contact me to discuss potential responsibilities. Fred Lake has already volunteered to be a regional chairperson, and will begin by arranging an N.B.S. gathering at the 1992 F.U.N. Convention.

I wish to thank Armand Champa for the wonderful exhibit of Numismatic Literature he displayed at the A.N.A. convention. If you missed the convention or somehow made the convention and missed his exhibit, you missed, without a doubt, the best visual of the whole affair. Look for a report on the exhibit and on the Exhibit catalogue produced by George Kolbe elsewhere in this issue. I also wish to thank N.B.S. member Michael Hodder for his delightful talk at the General Meeting, the text of which is carried in this issue. By the response of the audience, I know that it was one of the highlights of the convention.

Finally, the A.N.A. Board has approved our request to have an exhibition class for Numismatic Literature starting at next year's convention in Orlando. Once the motion was approved, our Board voted unanimously to call it the Aaron Feldman award. N.B.S, through the generous help of our membership, has funded a \$3,000 endowment for the prize. Thanks for all the support. The description of the award as furnished to the A.N.A. is all encompassing and should allow a great deal of latitude in participating:

Class 22 - Numismatic Literature - Aaron Feldman Memorial.
Printed and manuscript, published or unpublished; literature
dealing with all numismatic subjects, American or Foreign,
Ancient or Modern.

I hope you will continue your support of our organization, by coming to regional meetings, writing for *The Asylum*, and, by all means, exhibiting at next year's A.N.A. Convention.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATALOGUER'S STYLE

Michael Hodder

[The following is a transcription of Mr. Hodder's talk at the 1991 N.B.S. General Meeting. We are greatly indebted to him for the insights it contains, and for the permission to print it ...ed]

I wish I had some funny things to say to keep in the spirit of what's been going on, but I think this may be a little more serious. I am, by background, a historian; a medievalist which is to say that is what I studied in school - medieval French and English history. I did not really collect coins, although when I was twelve years old I did collect Roman denarii of which I had about twelve, the twelve Caesars. This was primarily to have little pieces to show me pictures of the emperors I was reading about. So I had no real collecting experience, and I don't collect anything now except information. I had never seen a U.S. coin of any sort, except what I had for pocket change up until February of 1980 when I was hired by Sotheby's to be an apprentice coin cataloguer. I joined the firm on a Monday, was put on probation for six months, and on Tuesday was given the Luther M. Otto collection of Large Cents to prepare for auction sale. Previously, I had never seen a large cent and, frankly, did not know that they even existed. They gave me a copy of Sheldon and a copy of the *A.N.A. Grading Standards Handbook*. So you can imagine me sitting there in my Sotheby's three piece pinstriped suit with a 1793 Chain Cent in one hand and a copy of the ANA Grading Standards in the other. *The Handbook* notes that for "VF" the line of hair should be broken, and I look at the coin, and Yes! it's broken, so VF.

The Otto sale happened in June of 1980, and the catalogue descriptions (I'm going to try to keep this focused on the development of the cataloguing style) were nothing more than the date of the coin, the Sheldon number, the grade as best as I could do it, and a guess at rarity - pure guess mostly taken out of Sheldon. I might have said there is a scratch here, or a flaw there, or a clip, but that was essentially it. At the sale, my catalogue descriptions were reviewed by Denis Loring and Tony Terranova, who had wonderful laughs over the grading, and who snapped up some coins at fairly cheap prices. They did, however, tell me that I got all the attributions correct, which I thought was pretty good considering my inexperience.

Moving on in time to 1983, I had been at Sotheby's for three years and was the head of their coin department, and received what turned out to be two major collections. The first was the Scott-Kinnear collection of United States Gold, which was very heavy in Pioneer, Territorial and San Francisco issues. The second was the S. Hallock du Pont Collection of U.S. Gold Coins including a complete set of Stellas, and a really remarkable collection of European Gold coins including a 100 Ducats of Leopold the Hogmouth of Austria, a gorgeous big, heavy piece. My catalogue descriptions by 1983 were pretty much as they had been in 1980, but now I started noticing things like surface quality, particularly in San Francisco mint issues, and the quality of the strike. I had a little better handle on rarities, and, more importantly, I started sticking-in some

historical information, primarily on the territorial issues. This was possible primarily because it was stolen directly from Don Kagin's book, which had just been published. But the important thing is (and I should note at this stage standing in front of a group of collectors of numismatic literature, that I feel something like a lion at a big game hunter's convention) that I am trying to describe to you how a cataloguer's style develops through my own personal experiences. I had absolutely no awareness in 1983 of things like pedigree. You must remember that I had never collected coins, did not know anything about numismatic literature, and had had no connection with any U.S. auction firms whatsoever. I was in a rather sheltered environment at Sotheby, Parke Bernet, or Sotheby's at the time, which considered itself to be the absolute pinnacle of auctions and did not have to worry how the rest of the world did it, because we did it the Sotheby's way.

There was no awareness of pedigree, but I had by 1983 begun to wonder or to make numismatic speculations. For instance, Hallock du Pont had a complete set of Stellas, all four varieties. In cataloguing them, I noticed that the striations tended to go in different directions from coin to coin, and I put some information and my speculations in the catalogue descriptions. That was the first time I ever ventured into print with some of my own personal feelings or research, and it became the basis for what I did later on with Sellas. I think this phenomenon (although Carlson disagrees) indicates that the planchets had been adjusted prior to striking. These are not roller striations as Carlson suggests, if you are familiar with our controversy.

Between 1983 and 1985 I moved from Sotheby's to Spink & Son in New York, where I ran their operation for a short time before they folded (through no fault of mine as it was doomed from the beginning). And then in April 1984 I was hired by Bowers and Merena in Wolfeboro to catalogue their foreign coins.

Between April of 1984 and January 1985, I must have showed Dave some interest, talent or ability, or perhaps been stupid enough to volunteer to catalogue some tokens. So in March, 1985, B & M had their March Sale, which was very heavy into medals, tokens, and exnumia. An important consignment in that sale had come from a noted Southwestern collector, Mr. John J. Ford Jr. Now I am trying to pitch this to collectors of numismatic literature and am not suggesting that what I write is collectible, but if you can look into my work, you may use the basis of what I am saying and see how a cataloguer's style develops. If you compare what I had done with foreign coins in the B & M auction sales in 1984 with what I had done in the March sale of 1985 with J. J.'s material, you will see that a watershed has been reached, a real sea change, which I ascribe in large measure to John's attempt to impose internal consistency upon my catalogue descriptions.

Today, when I catalogue a coin, I use a dictaphone. I have the coin in front of me, a dictaphone next to me, and the coin, which has some basic information on its work envelope. My job is to write a word picture of that coin so that someone who can not see it will feel confident enough to go ahead and buy it. This will include things like denomination, date, mint mark, grade,

rarity, surface condition, edge condition, pedigree, prior auction appearances, and comparisons with other coins. By doing all that on a dictaphone machine off the top of the head, it is inevitable that anyone is going to come out with a bit of a hodgepodge from one lot to another. In one description the grade will follow directly after the date. In the second one, you will say the date, see a big scratch and say "scratch, VF-35." Ford likes consistency, and his attempt was to impose that discipline upon my descriptions. Although I am sure John will disagree as they were not all as perfect as he would like to have seen them, many, if not all, of the descriptions in the March Sale of 1985 follow a single, set cadence. There was an identification of the object being sold, followed by a grade, followed by a description of surface conditions, followed by indications of rarity, followed by any other numismatic information I wanted to put in, followed by some historical digression designed either to indicate the rarity of the piece or to persuade somebody that it is interesting enough to go ahead and bid on.

Skipping ahead in time, between 1985 and 1987, I catalogued a number of other collections, but most importantly I did the Taylor Sale (March 1987), and the Dreyfuss Collection (June 1987). Those were, for me, two landmark sales in which I tried to incorporate what I had learned from John about internal consistency in catalogue descriptions with my basic historical interests in coins. The Taylor Collection arrived in Wolfeboro in November of 1986, and, for some reason, Bowers decided to set a schedule for March, 1987. Now those of you who collect Colonial coins probably know that there were literally hundreds and hundreds of coins. Many of them were unattributed, none with any indication of rarity, and none with any real solid pedigree information. And prior to that March Sale, I had never really seen a Colonial coin, let alone catalogue one. So the collection arrived in November, and we had approximately a month to complete the catalogue for delivery to the printers. My responsibilities involved cataloguing only Taylor's Connecticut. Most people are not aware of that I did only the Connecticut. Dave Bowers did all the other Colonials in that sale. My portion, all the Connecticut, was completed in five days. If you can imagine my desk, I had Taylor's coins in front of me, on my left was Garrett III, above was Pine Tree E.A.C. 1975, on the other side were various Bowers and Merena catalogues, and on my extreme left was New Netherlands 60th Sale. [audience: and an ANA Grading Guide?]. No ANA Grading Guide! By that time I had sort of a feel for coins. What I would do is after grading the coin, I would refer to all these various catalogues to get a sense of where it might exist in the Condition Census. I would call guys like Jeff Rock and ask for help as to whether this is a rarity, and where does it fall into the CC.

I would get all this information down onto a piece of paper, and by now I had come up with a little trick. When I catalogue a coin, any series of coins, I start by creating a template for myself, an idea I directly stole from Ford. The template is going to be the cadence of the auction catalogue description. Each bit of information that I am going to put into the catalogue is placed in sequence on the template. Then, when I am sitting in front of the

dictaphone, I have only to fill in the blanks. And that's how I could do the Taylor sale in only five days, because I had some internal structure into which I could plug the information. The CC's were still guesses. References to other pieces sold and how Taylor's coins stacked up with those other pieces still were guesses, but they were getting a little bit better.

In the Taylor Sale for the first time, I started playing with things like emission sequences. Since I had such a large collection of Connecticuts, I could look at common reverses married to different obverse dies, and noticing die breaks, begin to make stabs at die emission sequences. While many of these were childish as I had really nothing much to go by prior to that, some of them will still actually hold. In the Taylor sale, I decided to throw in information which generally does not get put into catalogue descriptions such as the weights of coins, which I consider to be quite important. Other catalogers do put in weights of coins. Stack's did until recently when their scale broke. But I also threw in characteristics like diameters and reverse die axes of coins.

Please remember that my background is history. I studied coins at the A.N.S. at the Summer Seminar for Graduate Students in 1978 primarily as a way of getting a paid trip to New York where my wife lived, as I was in school in Berkeley and had no money and no way to get to New York. So I applied for the ANS grant, it was awarded, and that is how I got to New York.

As a result of the A.N.S. program, I learned the importance of the technical information you can gather from reporting diameters, weights and die axes of coins, much of which I into the Taylor catalogue descriptions. I don't know how any of you felt about seeing that in the sale, and while it probably seemed fairly alien to many of you, it was basic to what I am now doing with early Colonials. In a commercial auction firm, the goal is to sell the coin, with any other objectives being secondary. Some firms don't care about having any of the extra descriptive material at all. The Bowers firm is one of the few around that encourages the historical and technical information in the catalogue description. However, where you place it can be the problem. You have, perhaps, a Connecticut Copper, Miller 1.1-A. The date and the attribution number come first; then you have a problem as what to put next. Do you stick the rarity in next, followed by the grade, followed by the weight, and all the rest of the stuff, or do you put the grade ahead of the weight, and so on. I still have not settled in my mind where grade should go. David [Bowers] prefers grade directly after the denomination and date, because he believes that nobody reads anything other than that in the catalogue descriptions, and some dealers have told me that's quite true. I tend to put the grade in pretty much where I feel like putting it in dependent on how strongly I think I am going to get criticized by Bowers and how I feel that particular morning.

The Dreyfuss sale which I did in June, 1987, was a sale of medals and tokens, most of which I had never seen before as types let alone specific pieces. Dreyfuss was a Washington D.C. based collector whose collection came to us through, and with the assistance and the joint billing of, Joe Levine. Joe packed up the collection in cardboard boxes, the contents of which seemed fairly random, and they were shipped up to our bank vaults in Wolfeboro, and then

to my office at Bowers and Merena. My office is perhaps from that wall there to this chair here. There were thousands and thousands and thousands of items that I had to unpack and lay out all over the floor. I had the floor and every shelf covered with medals and plaques. I had to be careful where I moved my chair so that I wouldn't roll over something. If someone wanted to come and see me, they had to knock on the door first, and we had to prepare a little path to my desk for fear of stepping on something. Nothing was at all organized whatsoever. In both the Dreyfuss and Taylor Sales, I began doing things like using single line headnotes to capture the reader's eye and also to convey information such as the rarity, the desirability, or the importance of a piece: **Andrew Johnson Silver Indian Peace Medal 62mm**. The descriptions were now more internally consistent because I had been getting used to what I had learned, and what I had been taught by Ford. I had better guesses at the rarity of items, as I did also in the Taylor sale, and was now beginning to make references to past sales of similar items. I now had pedigree information. There was a lot more numismatic speculation in the catalogue descriptions, and I was putting in historical 6 point type footnotes.

Now this all probably sounds extremely familiar to you collectors of numismatic literature. It more than likely sounds like New Netherlands auction cataloguing style. I have thought about this a lot, because I don't like to borrow from anybody. I am not certain that my style is a conscious borrowing from New Netherlands, or from the later Pine Tree sales. What I do think is that my cataloguing style is a combination of three particular factors. 1) John Ford's influence, which in my numismatic growth or development, has been predominant or paramount. John has been a remarkable influence upon me. 2) Dave Bower's influence. David is the premier showman/salesman in numismatics. He is the best marketeer in numismatics I have seen, perhaps after B. Max Mehl. His influence has stressed getting the coin sold in the very first sentence fragment of the catalogue description in case potential bidders don't read any further along. 3) And the third factor is the use of techniques like single or double line headnotes to indicate the rarity or desirability of items, the use of bold type within a catalogue description text to draw the eye of the reader directly to **Rarity 7+** or **Only one sold this century**, and the use of 6 point type historical notes after the catalogue description, which one may read or not read as he pleases. These all seem to me to be sort of logical and natural solutions to the problem of how to catalogue coins. So the three influences on my cataloguing style are John Ford, Dave Bowers and what I feel is the logical and proper way of cataloguing a coin. In me, you see somebody who came to this brand new with no background, and whose style has slowly developed into what I hope to be considered my own particular personal style; but one whose style could not obviously get away from the most important influence in numismatic cataloguing in numismatic history in the States, at any rate, that of John J. Ford of the New Netherlands Rare Coin Company.

HAVE YOU CHECKED HEAD'S

L. V. Reppeteau

For over a hundred years, whenever numismatists gathered to discuss ancient Greek coinage, an often heard inquiry has been: "Have you checked Head's?" Translation of such numismatic shorthand being: "What does the *Historia Numorum*," a manual of Greek numismatics, by Barclay V. Head, have to say on the subject?" Alas, while many know the book, few know the man who wrote such an authoritative and enduring text.

Barclay Vincent Head, born January 2, 1844, in Ipswich, Suffolk, England, was the second son of an old and respected Quaker family. In fact, the Barclay of his name is in honor of one of his Quaker ancestors, Robert Barclay (1648-1692), author of *Apology of the People Called Quaker*. Young Head received his education at a local grammar school, which he left at the age of seventeen. (It should be noted that in Britain at the time, "grammar school" was one in which both classical Greek and Latin were taught.) Barclay must have been a natural scholar, for next we find him at the tender age of twenty being appointed on February 12, 1864 as an assistant to William Vaux, the British Museum's first Keeper of Coins and Medals (1860-1870).

Fortunately for young Barclay, this was the golden age for classical numismatics in England. Queen Victoria sat on the throne, and the far corners of the world were awash with Englishmen, gentlemen whose adventures busily liberated archaeological treasures which flowed back to that great attic and cellar of the Empire - The British Museum. Part of these riches were packets of Ancient Greek coins, coins in need of identification and cataloguing. If ever there was a man for the time and the task, it was Barclay Head, who with a single-minded purpose, worked 10-12 hours a day, six days a week sorting, analyzing, classifying, and cataloguing coinage of long gone civilizations. Upon the retirement of Reginald Stuart Poole in January 1893, Head was appointed Keeper of Coins and Medals, a position he held for the next thirteen years until his retirement in 1906.

The first of Head's mountains of contributions to numismatic literature appears to have been a paper on "Anglo-Saxon Coins with Runic Legends" published in 1868 by the Numismatic Society of London. In the next year he became "Joint Editor" of *The Numismatic Chronicle*, a position he was to fill for the next thirty-one years. It was also in 1869 that he wed Mary Corkran, daughter of an Irish author and journalist John Frazer Corkran. They were married for thirty-two years and had one daughter.

In 1870, the Coin and Medals Department of the Museum embarked upon producing the epic series *Catalogue of Greek Coins in the British Museum*, the first of what was to become a twenty-nine volume series was published in 1873 with the project finally completed in 1927. Head was to be involved in the actual writing/editing of ten of those books.

1880 saw the birth of one of the most enduring numismatic books to be published by the British Museum, Head's *Guide to the Principal Gold and*

Silver Coins of the Ancients, 700BC to AD 1. Its express purpose was to popularize ancient coins for both the general public and for the collector. In this, the book was an outstanding success. Public acceptance was so great that after only one year, there was a need for a second edition. Since that time, there have been some twenty reprints.

In 1932, Sir George F. Hill, then Director and Principal Librarian of the Museum updated the format and text. It was then reissued under the new title of *A Guide to the Principal Coins of the Greeks from circ 700BC to AD 270*. A second revision was made in 1959 by John Walker, then Keeper of the Coins, with a reprint in 1965.

However Head's most famous work has proved to be that which is often called the "Bible of Greek Numismatics," his *Historia Numorum*, first published in 1877 by Clarendon Press, Oxford. In 1911, after his retirement from the Museum, he rewrote the work being assisted by that famous trio of British numismatists of Hill, George McDonald, and Warwick Wroth. The second edition was increased from 807 to 966 pages and is available in reprint form.

Even though Head had received an honorary degree from Durham University in 1887, and another from Oxford in 1905, recognition of his work was slow in coming within his own country. But across the Channel, it was another story. Early in his career, Heidelberg University, the French and Prussian Academies, along with numerous continental societies commenced bestowing degrees and awards in recognition of his work and contributions to the numismatic community.

Barclay was justly proud of his various degrees and honors gleaned over the years. However, it has been said that he was proudest of the *Corolla Numismatica*, written by thirty scholars of six nations, edited by George E. Hill, and dedicated to Head upon his retirement from the Museum in 1906.

Head passed away at the age of 70 in London on June 12, 1914. One of the best obituaries and tributes that I have seen was written by Hill, who had entered the museum's Coin Department in 1893. He refers to Head as "... a gentle and amiable scholar ..." and that "Head's work should rank as a classic in the annals of numismatics; severely as he limited his scope, he was no narrow specialist, and his judgement, deliberate, was yet instinctively so sound that even his few mistakes are illuminating."

The catalogue of Greek Coins in the British Museum in 29 volumes was commenced in 1890 and completed in 1927. Head authored eight of these and collaborated on an additional two. All were reprinted in 1963 at Bologna.

Co-authored

- Volume 2: *Sicily*, with R. S. Poole, and P. Gardner, 1876, 292pp, ill
- Volume 3: *Trace*, with P. Gardner, 1876, 292pp, ill

Authored

- Volume 5: *Macedonia*, 1879, 200pp, ill
- Volume 8: *Central Greece*, 1884, 158pp, ill
- Volume 11: *Attica, Megaris, Aegina*, 1888, 174pp, ill

- Volume 12: *Corinth, Colonies of Corinth*, 1889, 173pp, ill
- Volume 16: *Ionia*, 1892, 453pp, ill
- Volume 18: *Carin and the Islands*, 1897, 325pp, ill
- Volume 22: *Lydia*, 1901, 440pp, ill
- Volume 25: *Phrygia*, 1906, 491pp, ill

Also by Head

- *Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum*, selected coins exhibited in electrotpe, 1872, 48pp
- *On the Chronological Sequence of the coins of Syracuse*, 1874, 80pp
- *Coinage of Lydia and Persia*, 1877, 59pp, ill (reprinted 1967, Pegasus Publishing, San Diego)
- *Synopsis of the contents of the British Museum ... A guide to the select Greek and Roman coins exhibited in electrotpe*, 1880, 128pp
- *Guide to the Principal Gold and Silver Coins of the Ancients, 700BC to AD 1*, 1880, 128pp, ill;
- *Historia Numorum: A Manual of Greek Numismatics*, 1887, 807pp, ill; enlarged edition, 1911

Miscellaneous Papers (the author would be pleased to know of others)

- *Anglo-Saxon Coins with Runic Legends*, 1868, communicated to the Numismatic Society of London
- *On the Religious Character of Greek Coins*, 1870
- *On The Chronological Sequence of the Coins of Syracuse*, 1874
- *Metrological Notes on the Ancient Electrum Coins Struck Between the Lebantion Wars and the Accession of Daricas*, 1875, 53pp
- *Himariyte and Other Arabian Imitations of Athenian Coins*, 1878
- *On The Chronological Sequence of the Coins of Spheusus*, 1880
- *On The Chronological Sequence of the Coins of Boeotia*, 1881
- *Remarks on two Unique Coins of Aetna and Zanele*, 1883, Numismatic Chronicle, Series 3, Volume 3
- *Electrum Coins and Their Specific Gravity*, 1887, Numismatic Chronicle, Series 3, Volume 7
- *Archaic Coins of Cyrene*, 1891
- *The Greek Autonomous Coins from the Cabinet of the Late Mr Edward Wigan*, nd, 62pp

Quote without comment: "The Bibliomania meeting plays to a full house. Anyone who claims there's more numismatic scholarship in that room than on the entire bourse floor will get no argument from me."

... Denis Loring in his report on the A.N.A. in *Penny Wise*, Sept, 1991

A.M. SMITH'S *COINS AND COINAGE*: A TRIAL LIST

Pete Smith

A. M. Smith¹ published three numismatic references between 1881 and 1886, with *Coins and Coinage*, *The United States Mint, Philadelphia* being issued continuously during that period. This title evolved into the *Visitor's Guide and History of the United States Mint, Philadelphia* which was published concurrently 1885-1886. His major work was the *Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Gold and Silver Coins of the World* published in 1886.

Cataloguers of numismatic literature have been aware that there are several varieties of these publications. There are at least nine varieties each of the *Visitor's Guide* and of *The Encyclopaedia*. It is, however, *Coins and Coinage* that has had a seemingly uncountable number of varieties. The purpose of this paper, then, will be the development of a trial list of them. While I expect that additional listings will be discovered, I recognize the list is incomplete, but what better way to start.

Smith also published a newsletter, *Coin Collectors' of the United States Illustrated Guide*. In his issue for August 1881 he noted: "We have now a work that stands second to none, it will be issued in November. It will have several hundred illustrations of all the processes of how money is made in the U. S. Mint and the early ages of Europe. Full and complete history of American Colonial coins, and of all the U. S. coins with the value of the rare coins. Illustrated so that any child can learn and understand it, no labor or expense will be saved to make this little work a standard on coins. Its price will be within reach of all, the cost of the book will be 50 cents, paper cover. But to all those who subscribe for it, before it is out, we only charge 50 cents in heavy paper, cloth bound."

Coins and Coinage was, prior to the publication of George Evans' *Illustrated History of the United States Mint*, the standard reference on mint activities. Both books use many of the same illustrations, and both were sold in quantities, in excess of 100,000 each, that would make them best sellers by today's standards. While we believe that *Coins and Coinage* and the *Visitor's Guide* were sold over the counter at the Mint to people taking tours, no records to substantiate that have been located in the National Archives.

Attempting to list the varieties of Smith's *Coin and Coinage* represented a challenge. While dozens of catalogue listings have been checked, their descriptions have usually been incomplete or incorrect. As there has been no standard listing of varieties, few catalogues descriptions contained enough of the diagnostic features to determine the variety.

I currently have six different varieties of *Coins and Coinage* in my collection. Recently, I had the opportunity to examine nine copies in the Eric Newman Library. What astonished me is that his nine were varieties distinct from my six. I do not know what the probability is, but it makes me suspect that there may be many other varieties not included in either collection. In addition, two new varieties were seen at the recent A.N.A. Convention, and

Armand Champa's library contributed three more. So far, these seem to represent five basic editions, with seven minor varieties. Differences in the bindings bring the number of identified variants to 27. Obviously I will not feel comfortable until I start to see more duplicates of those already examined.

This article will include two parts. First will be a description of the variable features that can be used to identify different varieties. Second will be a listing of known varieties.

Titles: Take your pick. The commonly used title is *Coins and Coinage*. The best complete title is probably *Coins and Coinage. The United States Mint, Philadelphia, History, Biography, Statistics, Work, Machinery, Products, Officials*. The paper covered copies have an alternate title *Illustrated History of the U.S. Mint*. In hardbound versions through 1884, the paper cover from the softbound edition is bound in as a frontis illustration. A third title *U.S. Mint and Coins*, appears on the spine of some editions. One version has *Coins and Coinage, United States Mint* on the spine.

Dates: While several dates appear within the contents of some editions, I have attempted to establish the approximate dates of publication of all. In addition, there are transitional pieces that include new information at the end of old editions, this material being incorporated in the text in later editions. Transitional pieces are designated "E" for early, "M" for middle, and "L" for late. Finally, some editions include material that is presumed to be later than another edition as well as material known to be earlier than that other edition. These are labeled "T" for throwback.

- (1881) *First Edition*. Dated on the cover or frontis illustration. Probably released about November 1881. A letter from Secretary Sherman dated January 1, 1881 appears in the text on page 119.
- (1882) *Second Edition*. Labeled Fourth Edition for reasons still unknown. 1882 is arbitrary date as these versions are later than 1881s and earlier than 1883s. These are the only varieties that indicate an edition number.
- (1883E) Text includes description of the new 1883 five cent piece. Published after the coin was issued February 1, 1883, but before "CENTS" was added to the reverse. A letter from Secretary Folger dated January 1, 1883 appears on page 119.
- (1883L) *Third Edition*. With illustration of "CENTS" reverse on 1883 five cent piece. Published after March 1, 1883.
- (1884) *Fourth Edition*. Dated on frontis illustration; the last page refers to mintage of 1884.
- (1885) *Fifth Edition*. Frontispiece of Daniel Fox, who was appointed 7/1/85. Text includes his biography on pages 1-4.
- (1886) The last page has an ad for Smith's *Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Gold and Silver Coins of the World* published in 1886.

Binding: Catalogue descriptions have called the binding calf, goat, roan, sheep, or morocco. As I cannot tell the difference, if there is one, I will simply use the term leather. The following bindings have been used.

1. Paper, seen in cream or peach although pink is more common.
2. Cloth, green, olive or brown; seen only on 1881 edition.
3. Quarter leather, marbled card covers.
4. Half leather, color are confusing. Generally colors run in two ranges: light brown, dark brown or black and red or burgundy. Some colors may be original, some faded or redyed.
5. Full leather, listed in sale catalogues but not seen by this writer.

Spine: The imprint exists in at least four varieties, the type probably being distributed between editions. These varieties seen:

- 1 U.S. MINT AND COINS. - A. M. SMITH ("AND" at angle) (1881)
- 2 U.S. MINT AND COINS. * A. M. SMITH ("AND" curved)
- 3 U.S. MINT AND COINS. * A. M. SMITH ("AND" at angle)
- 4 COINS AND COINAGE - UNITED STATES MINT

Pages: A typical listing may show the page count as 2/120/8. This indicates there are two unnumbered, 120 numbered, and eight unnumbered pages at the end. The paper cover version would omit the first two pages. A blank back page is not included in the count. The frontis illustration and last page are frequently printed back to back with the patterned endpapers.

Snowden/Fox: A steel plate engraving of the superintendent of the mint appears as a frontispiece in many varieties. The Snowden portrait was engraved by Samuel Sartain while that of Fox was prepared by John Sartain. Snowden appears in the 1881-1884 editions, but in some copies the engraving was either never present or has been removed. The location of his biography, however, is diagnostic for the five editions - page 43 (1st, 1881); page 48 (2nd, 1882 and 1883E); page 51 (3rd, 1883L, 1884E) and page 37 (4th, 1884L). Fox appears on the frontispiece for the 5th (1885-86) edition with his biography on pages 1-4.

Size: Sizes are variable and may be diagnostic although not enough pieces have been seen. Small differences should not be considered significant.

Paper Covers	4.5x7.7 inches	(1881 or 1882)
Paper Covers	4.6x7.4	(1885E)
Paper Covers	4.9x7.5	(1884E)
Paper Covers	5.0x7.7	(1883E)
Paper Covers	5.1x7.8	(1884E)
Half Leather	4.7x7.6	(1883T)
Half Leather	4.8x7.7	(1882)
Half Leather	4.9x7.7	(1883M; 1883L)
Half Leather	5.3x7.7	(1885L)
Half Leather	5.4x8.1	(1884L; 1886)
Half Leather	5.5x8.1	(1885L)

Endpapers: They are probably not diagnostic and cannot be used to determine different issues. They are included in the descriptions in an attempt to determine if they are diagnostic.

Known Varieties:

- (1881) *First Edition*; dated 1881 on paper cover or frontis illustration; table of contents on pages 2-4; Snowden biography on page 43; pages 2/107/blank leaf.
- a. Cream paper covers, no title on spine (4.5x7.7)
 - b. Green cloth, endpapers with flowers and birds
 - c. Dark olive cloth, endpapers black on blue flowers, spine dash
 - d. Brown cloth
- (1882) *Second Edition*; dated 1881 on cover or frontis illustration; "Fourth Edition" on title page; table of contents 2-4; section on medals - pages 37-47; 7 page Snowden biography begins on page 48; page 119 - Sherman letter dated Jan. 1, 1881; no ancients shown; pages 1/120.
- e. Peach paper covers; 4.5x7.7; one copy seen purchased 10/21/1882
 - f. Burgundy half leather; endpapers white on green leaf; "*" on spine; 4.8x7.7
 - g. Maroon half leather; endpapers white vines on lavender; 4.9x7.7
 - h. Burgundy full leather, raised spine bands; all edges gilt; thick paper, frontispiece of Snowden
- (1883E) Transitional, title page without edition number, p1-118 same as (1882). Snowden biography page 48; Folger letter dated Jan. 1, 1883 found on page 119. Pages 1/120/8; unnumbered pages 1-6 contain a list of books for sale; unnumbered page 7 has "The New Five Cent Piece." with the first reverse; published after February 1, 1883; unnumbered page 8 has advertisement for Pierce College of Business.
- i. Pink paper covers. (5x7.7)
- (1883M) Transitional, dated 1881 on frontis illustration; Snowden biography on page 51; the "New Five Cent Piece" on 7th unnumbered page. Pages 1/120/8
- j. Dark brown half leather, green leaf endpapers (4.9x7.7)
- (1883L) *Third Edition*: Dated 1881 on frontis illustration; Pages 2/120/8. p47 has "Superintendent's Office," p48-50 "Illustrations" of Roman Coins, p51 repeats "Superintendent's Office;" 4 page Snowden biography begins on p51; p55-118 same as (1882); "New Five Cent Piece" on unnumbered p1 shows both reverses; "CENTS" reverse noted in text; p2-5: "Greek Coins;" p6: books for sale; p7: ad for Webster's dictionary and Smith fpl; p8: ad for Bryant & Stratton College.
- k. Russet half leather, endpapers green on white birds, flowers and leaves. Third type spine with a star.

- (1883T) Throwback edition; Title page marked "Fourth Edition" as (1882); pages 1/120/2; pages 1-120 same as (1882); single sheet glued to back endpaper; first side with advertisement for Webster's Dictionary and Smith fpl; second side with "The New Five Cent Piece" showing both reverses as (1883L).
- l. Black half leather, end papers white leaves and flowers on tan; (4.7x7.6)
- (1884E) Transitional, dated 1884 on cover or frontis illustration. Otherwise organized as 1883L. Frontispiece of Snowden whose biography appears on page 51; "The New Five Cent Piece" with both reverses on the first unnumbered page; pages 1/120/8.
- m. Pink paper covers, no title on spine. (4.9x7.5)
 - n. Pink paper covers, no title on spine. (5.1x7.8)
 - o. Red quarter leather and marbled cardboard covers; frontis illustration on pink paper; fourth spine type "Coins and Coinage - United States Mint" on spine.
- (1884L) *Fourth Edition*. Dated 1884 on cover or frontis illustration; Snowden biography appears on page 37; contents reorganized, with Table of Contents pages 2-4 from (1883E) not matching current page locations; pages 1-36 same as previous, medals section dropped. "The New Five Cent Piece" on page 65. Pages 2/106/21
- p. Pink paper covers (5.0x7.8)
 - q. Brown half leather, endpapers tan leaves and flowers (5.4x8.1)
 - r. Red half leather.
- (1884T) Throwback edition; dated 1881 on frontis illustration, otherwise as 1884L; frontispiece of Snowden with biography on page 37, "The New Five Cent Piece" on page 65; pages 2/106/21.
- s. Brown half leather, endpapers black flowers on green. (5.4x8.1)
 - t. Black half Leather, endpapers white leaves on green. (5.4x8.1)
- (1885E) Transitional, dated 1884 on cover; frontispiece of Fox with biography on pages 1-4 replacing table of contents; pages 105/26.
- u. Pink paper covers, title on spine (4.6x7.4)
- (1885L) *Fifth Edition*. Undated, frontis illustration dropped; frontispiece of Fox with biography pages 1-4 replacing Table of Contents; p5-36 same as (1884L), Snowden biography replaced with Greek coins p37-42; pages 43-105 same as (1884L); five new pages of ancient coins added to end; last page promotes a fixed price list; pages 2/105/21.
- v. Brown half leather. (5.5x8.1)
 - w. Dark brown half leather, endpapers tan leaves. (5.3x7.7)
 - x. Brown half leather, endpapers light green blossoms and leaves, (5.3x7.7)

- y. Red half leather, endpapers black branches on gray. (5.3x7.7)
- z. Green half leather, endpapers black branches on gray. (5.3x7.7)

- (1886) Same organization as (1885L) except last page promotes both fixed price list and Encyclopaedia; pages 2/105/21
- aa. Red or burgundy half leather, endpapers black branches on gray (5.4x8.1)

Sources: Armand Champa Collection
 Jack Collins Sale 10/1/1983
 Dan Hamelberg Collection
 George Kolbe Catalogues, various sales
 Eric Newman Educational Society library
 Minnesota Historical Society
 The author's collection.

¹The initials have been expanded alternately as Andrew Madson and Andrew Mason.

Essex Co. Numismatic & Antiquarian Society Meeting

At the last regular meeting of this society, a "bibliomanaic" member offered for inspection some rare pamphlets and books, the latter being especially delightful to the book-hunter by reason of their lovely uncut condition, and stainless preservation from the vandal work of that abandoned old reprobate Father Time - from whom it is the province of the above society to rescue and preserve mementoes of the past, interesting alike to the numismatist, bookhunter and antiquarian.

Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, August 1869

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

Joel J. Orosz

Prices realized by special editions of nineteenth century coin auction catalogues have crashed! Hardbound, special paper editions have simply gone begging for lack of interested buyers. Are you shocked? Unlax, as Bugs Bunny used to say. Your sneaky columnist did not say that special editions are crashing, rather that they have crashed. And so they have -- long ago, that is - in the latter half of 1881. As chronicled by that learned and often pugnacious

coin merchant Ed. Frossard, in the January 1882 issue of *Numisma*, the story of the bust in the ten-issued-with-thick-paper market makes for fascinating reading today.

In the Summer and Autumn of 1881, the nation's attention was riveted upon its stricken leader, James Abrahm Garfield. Felled on July 2 by a bullet fired by a disappointed office seeker, the President lingered for more than two months, alternately sinking and rallying, before finally dying on September 19. Less momentously, but with similar drama, life was also ebbing out of the market for special edition numismatic catalogues during these anxious weeks. By the time that Ed. Frossard chronicled its sorry state in the first month of 1882, the market for these publications was all but extinct.

Frossard began by noting that special editions have been "regularly issued by the pioneers of the coin trade," and "readily sold at from \$4 to \$10 per copy." "Subsequently," he continued, "with an increase in the number of sales and a consequent decrease in their importance, the prices fell to \$1 or \$2, but were for a long time sustained at those rates." The collapse of this stable market occurred, according to the Sage of Irvington-on-Hudson, because coin sales were by then being held weekly, and often one catalogue was just a repetition of sections from earlier sales. All of this resulted in Frossard's mince-no-words prose, "catalogues of once renowned cabinets bring little more than waste paper."

Frossard hardly disapproved of frequent coin auctions, and he positively endorsed the idea of collecting catalogues of certain sales: "Every collector who collects for information, self culture and with higher aims than a mere accumulation of dates, should have a number of priced catalogues, selected with care, and bearing especially upon the particular branch of numismatics to the study of which he devotes his moments of leisure."

If this was so, why then the dismal market for special editions? Brother Frossard offered a plausible explanation: "Some collectors gather a full series of catalogues, and the uninitiated is frequently astonished to see, at a coin sale, a valuable compendium of numismatic knowledge knocked down for 02¢, while a small, poorly composed, miserably gotten up, and altogether worthless catalogue of some obscure sale will bring \$1- and more. This is not on account of the value of the latter, but simply because A, B, and C, who want to complete their series of catalogues are all bidders for the worthless one they lack, while the more valuable one is already in their collections and hence not wanted." It is fascinating to learn that there were a handful of collectors systematically gathering catalogues by series in the early 1880s, for we have tended to regard numismatic bibliomania as a recent phenomenon. And interestingly, the same dynamic that Frossard identified continues to operate today, for many 19th century catalogues with important contents may be purchased for a mere pittance, while a number of early publications by Stacks or Bowers and Ruddy with relatively undistinguished contents trade for large sums. This is, of course, because of "Frossard's Law:" catalogues collected by series generally fetch better prices than those that are not, and certainly often realize higher prices than their contents can justify.

Frossard, being Frossard, could not resist taking a swipe or two at his fellow coin dealers. John Walter Scott, as usual, was the primary target. "It is true that some malicious persons," wrote Frossard sarcastically, "have persistently spread the rumor that Scott's catalogues up to N°15 are a myth, and that several numbers were 'skipped,' also that he never held a sale before 1878, and could not produce half the number claimed to have been issued, but the fact of their existence cannot for a moment be doubted, even if no one has ever seen a copy, when vouched for by so high an authority as Mr. Scott himself." There is some truth, but only some, in Frossard's charge. The Scott firm emitted a total of 331 catalogues, some primarily of stamps, others predominately featuring coins, some when Scott ran the company, others when the Calman brothers were the proprietors. In all this activity it may be possible to find a certain amount of misnumbering and confusion in sequence. Thanks to N.B.S. member John Adams, however, we can conclusively absolve Scott of the charge of never having held a sale before 1878. "The Great Boaster," as Frossard often called him, issued two numismatic sales in 1877, including the first in his series, which contained the discovery of the 1793 Clover Leaf Cent!

Perhaps to prevent Scott from making similar charges about Frossard's past sales, the editor of *Numisma* included in his article a complete list of his own auctions (and a similar list of S.K. Harzfeld's sales). Frossard then concluded his article with some editorial comments about Emmanuel J. Attinelli's *Numisgraphics*. After praising Attinelli's magnum opus, Frossard noted that "the edition was unfortunately so small that it very soon became exhausted. A second edition, enlarged and brought up to January 1, 1882, would undoubtedly be received with pleasure by collectors of numismatic literature in general and would be a great practical use to those who make the collection of coin catalogues a specialty." This suggestion went unheeded for nearly a century, until Quarterman Publications finally came out with a reprint in 1976 featuring a foreword and price guide by John Adams. Frossard's observation, however, does suggest that there may have been more bibliomanaics in the numismatic world of 1882 than we have heretofore suspected.

History, it is said, goes around in cycles. The bust in special editions has not recurred, lamentably for your columnist who would then be an avid buyer. But numismatic bibliophiles A, B, and C still bid nondescript catalogues out of sight, continue to argue about whether reputed catalogues actually exist, and still wish certain books reprinted. The Sage of Irvington may be with us no longer, but the lure of the printed word about coins waxes stronger than ever. May it still be true when all of us have joined Brother Frossard in the land of the unlimited special editions - revised and corrected by the author.

One of the most important serial publications on numismatic literature we have encountered is currently running in the monthly issues of *The Celator, Journal of Ancient Art and Artifacts*. Written by N.B.S. member Dennis Kroh, each month's installment is a monograph evaluating, rating (from 5 to -1 stars), and pricing the works of a specific area of Ancient Coinage. Covered since the series began in November 1990 have been Roman Empire - Handbooks, References, and Published Collections; Ancient Greek Coins - Handbooks, References, and Published Collections; SNG Series; Books on Byzantine; Roman Republican; Ancient Judaic and Biblical Coinage; Greek Coinage of Syracuse and Sicily; the Seleucid Kingdom; Roman Provincial ("Greek Imperials"). All back issues are available and may be obtained by writing The Celator, Box 123, Lodi, WI 53555.

EXHIBIT CATEGORY REPORT

Wayne Homren

As those of you who attended the N.B.S. meeting at the A.N.A. already know, we were successful in our efforts to establish a new A.N.A. exhibit category for numismatic literature. Our Society owes a special thanks to member and ANA Governor Donn Pearlman who made the motion on our behalf at the ANA Board meeting August 12. The motion was carried 8-0 with Jim Halpern not in attendance. As the result of a request from the A.N.A. Board to submit a name by which the award might be known, we have chosen to honor the man who coined the phrase "Buy the book before the coin" by naming the award after pioneer bookseller Aaron Feldman.

By the conclusion of the N.B.S. general meeting four days later, we had met our goal of raising the required \$3,000 endowment. As soon as all pledged amounts have been collected by the Treasurer, we will forward the funds to the A.N.A. We owe our gratitude to the generous members who donated, pledged, or purchased items to help raise the necessary amount.

Now it is up to the rest of us to make it happen. The exhibit category will be in place for the 1992 Annual Convention to be held in Orlando. As a prerequisite for the award consideration, we had submitted with our application the names of John J. Ford, George Kolbe, and Denis Loring as judges. Now it is time to recruit able exhibitors. If you are planning to attend the convention, we encourage you to consider entering an exhibit in this new category. Any topic is fair game, and if you have never exhibited before, don't worry. It is fun and not really all that difficult.

L. Miles Raisig, longtime N.B.S. member, has submitted an addendum to Forrest Daniel's *Checklist of Numismatic Fiction* (Volume IX N°2). He would include Judith Ann Benner: *Lone Star Rebel*, John F. Blair, 1971. The adventures of a 14 year old Texas youth in and out of the Confederate Army, and his confrontation with counterfeiters whose activities threaten the Southern economy.

A.N.A. CONVENTION NOTEBOOK

P. Scott Rubin

Sunday, August 11 - 5 A.M: Left Trenton with Sam Colavita. 12 hours and 8 minutes later we were in Chicago. Sam goes into convention security to check in. While waiting for him, I run into Armand Champa, who is worried about Charlie Davis, who had left Louisville nine hours earlier with a truck loaded with Armand's literature exhibit and hasn't been seen since. The good news, however, is that Charlie had already arrived and that Armand's books were safely tucked away in the Security Room. (A big "thank you" to the security guard who didn't notice the 22 cartons of books when Armand inquired if Davis had arrived!). I go to the Holiday Inn to check in, and agree to meet Armand and crew for dinner. At 7:30 we meet Armand, his wife Kay and 2 daughters, Charlie, John Bergman and his wife Mary, John Burns and Wayne Homren at the Hyatt. While waiting for the group to assemble, I meet Fred Lake for first time. Off to the restaurant where we find Superior Stamp & Coin having a Party for Big Spenders. We, of course, are not invited, numismatics not being the main topic at their dinner.

Monday - August 12 - P.N.G. Day: After getting photo ID badge (the first of three I was to acquire), I return to hotel to meet Armand for a quick breakfast and then back to convention. With the help of Ruthann Bretell, I get Exhibitors Badges so Armand and I can meet Charlie, Wayne, Fred and John, who are assembling the 47 case Armand Champa Numismatic Literature Exhibit! The six of us labored (labored as in the case of the guy who has the tough job of being a Playboy photographer) from 9 to 5 to get the job done with James Taylor being coaxed to provide additional space and nearly inciting an international incident (the extra space came from the Russian Mint). My guess it's the biggest display at convention, maybe ever, and it looks great. Q. David Bowers is on one side of us putting up his display of commemorative coinage, while John Kraljevich (the next QDB?) on the other side had counter stamped souvenirs at his display "ANA 100 J.K." with one cent dated for each year (1891-1991). At one of two breaks I'm allowed, I get 2 hot dogs and see Walter Breen and John Ford for first time at the convention. Many people

filter in while we are setting up display: Spangenberg, Hamelberg, Burns, and many others that I meet for the first time. After a couple of hours to rest, out to dinner at Hyatt with Armand, Charlie, John and Mark Auerbach. Back to Hotel 10:30 P.M.

Tuesday August 13: Official opening day of the convention. Went to the dedication of the Numismatic Postage Stamp with John Burns and Fred Lake. Had souvenir cards signed by all the dignitaries present. Ran into Donn Perlman and thanked him for presenting the Numismatic Literature Exhibition class proposal before the A.N.A. board for us. He noted it was a unanimous vote of approval. Back to the N.B.S. table to number copies of the Catalogue of the Armand Champa Exhibition, a beautiful catalogue prepared by George Kolbe. Davis, Homren, Lake and Bergman also pitched in with numbering and table sitting. Bought Pobjoy and French Commemoratives (I was the first buyer of each at the convention!). The England Medal and on and on. Went to Orville Grady's table after Charlie reported sighting a Gilbert Half Cent book with Clarence Edgar's name stamped on the front board. This turned out to be one of the three copies bound in 1941 by John Ford. I buy the book and later get Ford to inscribed the copy as such. Met recently reincarnated bookseller David Sklow. Bought Henry Chapman's 1925 ANA membership card from Charlie. Run into Michael Hodder and go to Mark Auerbach's talk in the Theater; Katens, Clain-Stefanelli, Carl Feldman, Gordon Frost, etc also were in attendance.

Wednesday August 14: Spent the day collecting Passport coins for my daughter, looking at the Trompeter coins and Bowers and Broadway exhibits. Managed to get Newman & Bressett to autograph my copy of the A.N.A. anthology, and Fivaz and Stanton to autograph Cherry Pickers Guide II. Off to Ford's great talk in the Theater. Curators ran away with World Series Semifinal. Denis Loring and I decide to market a plan whereby books are slabbed with a micro dot containing the contents of the book. Maybe we should copyright the idea before David Hall claims it. Loring showed me 1794 Double struck large cent. Saw, but didn't buy, the Noyes books on Large Cents. Went to Superior's meeting on New Auctions. Dinner at Italian restaurant at Hyatt with crazy waitress. Ken, Myron and his wife Daryl, Armand, Barry Tayman, Charlie Davis, Wayne Homren and Joel Orosz. Left C.P.A. Myron to deal with the tab: \$70 for a salad!! N.B.S. Board Meeting at 8 P.M. accomplished quite a bit with minutes hopefully in a later issue of *The Asylum*.

Thursday August 15: Sam Colavita wants to leave 5 AM Friday instead of staying the week. Back to N.B.S. table to number more Champa booklets and prepare for N.B.S. meeting. I could not find the agenda list, so we'll wing it. The room filed up; I am so confused I tell board member Champa not to sit at board table (sorry about that, Armand!). I also forget to let John Wilson greet the group on behalf of the A.N.A.; after being reminded, he speaks. The room is filled with book people, numismatists, and a combination of the two. Armand Champa Award given to Kolbe and Collins (our founders). Linda Kolbe is given a certificate of recognition (their 30th anniversary was observed several days earlier, and after 30 years of book talk

from George she deserves an award. What a great couple!) The Aaron Feldman award is given to Armand Champa for his work in promoting numismatic literature and our organization. Kay Champa is also the recipient of a richly deserved award for all she has done to make visitors feel at home when visiting Louisville. Denis Loring, development officer par excellence, passes the box (no one wears hats these days) to help fund the Numismatic Literature Exhibition Class approved by the A.N.A. Board. Aaron Feldman, a good friend and one of the few people who supported numismatic knowledge as the main reason for collecting numismatic items, is honored by having the exhibit award named in his memory. George Kolbe donates a two volume set of John Adams' Numismatic Literature, autographed by all members in attendance at the meeting. John Bergman outduels Dan Hamelberg and pays \$750, perhaps a steal when you consider that a leatherbound Judd, signed by 50 numismatists in 1970 fetched \$3300 last year. V.P. Homren donates one of three Armand Champa refrigerator magnets he had made up. Each has an identical picture of a standing Armand Champa. Wayne retains one, gives one to Armand and Charlie Davis is the winner of the third. I then present a talk on the Gilbert Half Cent book, which hopefully will lead to a paper to be published in *The Asylum*. Michael Hodder is the second speaker, and his discussion on the development of the cataloger's style is published in this issue. That evening, we reconvene for Armand's symposium with John Adams, Kolbe, Ford, myself and Moderator Champa talking books. As if Armand had not done enough already, he donated several hundred books and catalogues to attendees. Included were a Stickney with plates, a John Story Jenks without, plated Cogans, early auction sales and the first two volumes of the *Numismatic Scrapbook*. And George Kolbe donates an Adams Volume II. (Now, don't you wish you'd been there!) The night and the convention for me end with the N.L.G. bash. Bowers gets Book of the Year for *The A.N.A. Centennial History*, Lovejoy best catalogue ... back to New Jersey.

THE ARMAND CHAMPA EXHIBIT

Charles Davis

Those of you who read only *Coin World* may be completely unaware of the highlight of the A.N.A.'s 100th Anniversary Convention in Rosemont, Illinois - *Numismatic Americana from the Library of Armand Champa*. Consisting of forty-seven Allstate cases filled with selections from the Champa Library, this "non-competitive" exhibit displayed many of the rarest and most significant auction catalogues, standard references, fixed price lists, periodicals and other memorabilia of our numismatic heritage.

Each individual who viewed the exhibit will remember several items of special personal importance, perhaps related to his collecting specialty. For me, it began at Case N^o1 with The Mickley Diary. Open to the page where its

writer records the discovery of the theft of a portion of his collection on April 13, 1867, Mickley notes he has alerted local coin dealers, received their sympathetic visits, placed his remaining coins in safekeeping at the Mint (!), entertained Haseltine and Idler (unsuccessful bidders?), and finalized the sale of the balance to Elliot Woodward on April 30. His purchase of a bond in the amount of \$10,000 on May 17 indicates the magnitude of the transaction and the speed, five weeks from robbery to payment, with which it was undertaken.

Later cases included the most complete collection of plated Elder sales, complete small plated Chapmans, a prospectus to Attinelli, The Thian Register with two of the six currency albums originally prepared, the Lee work on Confederate Currency, Franklin Pierce's copy of Ormsby, no fewer than nine leather bound Mehls, Edgar Adams' notebook on Hard Times Tokens, five copies of Crosby including two from the author's estate, leatherbound editions of The Bond Detector, Browning, Marvin, Newcomb, Snowden ... and a dazzling display of Alan Grace's finest craftsmanship.

Augmenting the display was an Exhibition Catalogue prepared by George Kolbe designed to compliment its visual aspects. In his inimitable style, Mr Kolbe has, for each of 119 items, highlighted the historical significance, rarity, and provenance of the particular copy displayed. Published in an edition of 1,500 and nearly fully distributed, we have retained approximately 50 copies and will send one to any N.B.S. member who was not at the Convention. Please address your request to the Editor, and enclose \$2.00 for postage.



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ALFRED SZEGO A REMEMBRANCE

George Kolbe

I initially became acquainted with Al Szego in the late 1970's when he started participating in our numismatic book sales. A few years later, I met him at a New York coin show. For the most part, though, our business relationship and subsequent friendship was carried on via the telephone. In the late 1980's, Al became more loathe to travel, and I did not see him often at the annual New York sales, although last year was a welcome exception.

In between, we (mostly Al) contributed to the welfare of the verbal communications business. Rarely, if ever, would a sale go by without hearing from him. Along with his bids there was usually a moment or two of friendly conversation. It was hard to hang up the phone and not feel better than before. Scholarly, seemingly shy and retiring, Al was, above all, a people person.

He once told me about his entrance into the coin business. In 1955, Al was a television repairman at the time when there were not two TV's in the house an a VCR in every den. He was not overly busy, and the bank account was low. Concerned and caring about other people to a fault, Al probably spent more helping the owners than fixing their television sets.

One of his customers planned to pay part of an overdue bill by selling a large accumulation of old coins to local dealer. Al figured that if the coin dealer was offering \$30.00 he could afford to deduct \$35.00 from the repair bill in exchange. Toting home a big box of foreign coins, it occurred to him that he knew nothing about them. With the help of J. W. Scott's and Wayte Raymond's *Coins of the World*, and not least, Augusta, - his "partner in life and business" as she terms it - they went to work. Soon there was a pile of coins, less than one-fourth by volume, with a total "catalogue" value of \$200.00. Their first ad in *Popular Mechanics*: 32 foreign coins and a price list for \$1.00 was a resounding success.

By the time I became acquainted with Al, he had already amassed an impressive numismatic library. Mention a standard work, and he had it. I liked the way he bid in my sales and the many European sales where I acted on his behalf. If he did not really need a book, he might bid two-thirds or so of the estimate. If the book was important to his researches, however, he rarely lost it. When he did, it was invariably with good grace.

Al's many kindnesses, joy of life and thirst for knowledge will always be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known him. Numismatic researcher and author, amateur botanist and talented artist among other accomplishments, Alfred Szego, large in both intellect and stature, was a gentle giant.

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